DPL putting together land designation for Saipan Mayor's Office but...PAGE 3
Palacios no issue with Senate president invoking FOIA. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Police respond to back-to-back threats at local middle schools

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Parents gather outside the Cha Cha Oceanview Middle School entrance awaiting word about the safety of their children following a reported bomb threat

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2023
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By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety was called to respond to two separate threats at two different local middle schools yesterday.

Yesterday, a number of police officers and various units under DPS were tasked to stake out the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School and Cha Cha Oceanview Middle School after two separate

See POLICE on Page 4

Palacios: Retiree bonus a pie in the sky

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palacios

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said he loves to provide a retiree bonus or Cost of Living Allowance, but the government can't even really afford to pay the additional 25% pension benefits to government retirees that the administration is paying now.

In an interview with the media Tuesday, Palacios said he loves to give retiree bonus as a governor, but the question is if the government able to afford it.

See PALACIOS on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Police barricade the entrance of Cha Cha Oceanview Middle School following a bomb threat yesterday afternoon

McCoy: Increasing airport landing fees could lead to cascade effect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McCoy

Increasing airport landing fees could lead to a cascade effect that ultimately will result in a decline in business and tourism in the CNMI, according to the Rota Chamber of Commerce.

Steven McCoy, president of the Rota Chamber of Commerce, said such an increase of landing fees will cause higher operational costs for airlines, which could then result in reduced flight options and higher ticket prices.

McCoy expressed the Chamber's concerns

See MCCOY on Page 4

Kan Pacific files another suit vs IPI, demands jury trial

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd. has filed another breach of contract suit against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC over the casino investor's continuous failure to make payments toward its contractual obligation with Kan Pacific.

Kan Pacific, through attorney Joseph Iacopino, has filed

See KAN on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
15

INSIDE

SPECIAL FEATURE
Kinpachi Restaurant, one of Saipan's longest operating dining establishments, turns 43.
PAGE 12

BUSINESS
Enjoy a fun-filled Sunday at the heart of the island with something for everyone at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.
PAGE 15

NATION
A federal judge agreed with Texas and eight other states suing to stop the DACA program.
PAGE 16

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Local

Castro attends WICHE meeting in Phoenix, AZ

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Castro

Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) attended the annual meeting of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education in Phoenix, Arizona.

Castro said the meeting, scheduled from Sept. 12 to 13, 2023, focused on relevant higher education policy issues for the region.

The lawmaker last week informed House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) that he will attend the Arizona meeting and will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from Sept. 11 to 16.

Castro requested that he be excused from any legislative sessions, committee meetings, and other official functions that may occur during his absence.

Castro has been appointed to the Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC) of the WICHE by CNMI's WICHE commissioner.

He said the WICHE Commissioners created the LAC in 1995 to inform the commission and staff about significant legislative issues related to higher education and to strengthen state and territory policymaking in higher education across the West.

Castro told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the airfare is mostly paid for by WICHE and that's why he agreed to participate.

"My attendance is a big benefit to CNMI. We save millions of dollars by being a member," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Castro is the first member of the 23rd Legislature to indicate in an off-island notice for official business trip the specific event and its venue he is attending to. In previous Legislatures, some members do the same.

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DPL putting together land designation for Saipan Mayor's Office but...

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands is in the process of putting together land designation for a parcel of public land in As Perdido for the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho is said to be planning to build a permanent home for the municipality.

In his letter dated Aug. 17, 2023 to DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos, Camacho said establishing a permanent home for the municipality will provide cost savings on office lease space as well as streamlining operations to enhance efficiency, convenience, and service delivery to the community.

The mayor requested Santos to expedite the process as his office is seeking to secure federal grant funding for this matter. The federal funding grant application is due on Sept. 30, 2023.

Santos said Wednesday that she wrote to Camacho last Tuesday, Sept. 12, informing him that some conditions must take place before such designation is finalized.

After referring the request letter to DPW Planning Division director Pat Rasa, Santos wrote back last Aug. 23 to Camacho, informing him that DPL has scrutinized the request and is unable to grant it.

In the Aug. 23 letter, Santos said they found out that the particular property that Camacho is requesting has been re-designated to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

The secretary said they also found that on July 24, 2018, the then-Saipan mayor and the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council have been designated a lot containing area of 5,098 square meters in Chalan Kanoa.

She said the purpose of the designation was solely to construct, develop, and maintain the municipal government offices and other related uses incidental to the operation of the grantees.

Santos said DPL designations are standardized that do not allow any commercial activities or any form of revenue generation functions and/or programs.

However, Santos in her letter Tuesday to Camacho informed the mayor that DPL is already putting together the land designation for the As Perdido property, as the mayor requested, but with some conditions.

Among DPL's conditions is that DPL's reconveyance of the municipality's future administration/municipal council building site in Chalan Kanoa be executed.

The other condition is cancellation of a temporary use authorization for land situated in Koblerville for heavy equipment driver's training ground and parking of heavy equipment.

DPL also requires to have a schematic design of the proposed use of the As Perdido property as this will determine the size of land that will be designated to the municipality.

That last condition is the need to perform re-survey of portion of the property to determine the size and a new lot number of the reconveyed property.

Stating that DPL is aware of the designation, Santos asked the mayor to provide DPL Planning Division the schematic design as soon as possible.

Santos said additionally, the municipality must engage its own surveyor to parcel out the reconveyed portion of the intended municipal building in Chalan Kanoa.

Rasa said Wednesday that a while back when Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang was still the Saipan mayor, he requested for land designation where the municipal council is right now right next to the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa.

Rasa said they had to close part of the road to ensure that they have enough land for both the mayor's office administration building and the municipal council, including their parking lot.

She said when Camacho came in, he requested also for land for the administration building, however, DPL had already designated an area for such purpose.

Rasa said they can only give the Saipan mayor one designation. She said if it is for an office building, they can only give them one site.

Santos said they cannot designate more parcels of land for the same purpose because if they continue to do that, it will continue to deplete the availability of public lands.

"And what's going to be left for public land exchanges? What's going to be left for other requests and so forth?" Santos pointed out.

Rasa said Camacho came back, requesting for over 10 hectares of land, or 100,000 square meters of land in As Perdido.

Rasa said on the same token, Camacho requested for a property in Koblerville and DPL designated 25,000 square meters for the Saipan Mayor's Office staging heavy equipment and for heavy equipment potential operators.

The director said if Camacho wants to relocate to As Perdido, DPL wants to take back the Chalan Kanoa and Koblerville properties because they cannot designate two properties for the same purpose.

"And he doesn't want to hear that," Rasa said.

In his request letter, Camacho said the municipality plays a vital role in serving the needs of community members and visitors, however, their current reliance on leased office space poses challenges in terms of both financial sustainability and operational efficiency.

The mayor said owning a dedicated property would provide stability and continuity to their operations.

"A permanent home would allow us to better plan for future, improve service delivery, and ensure the availability of essential services to the residents of Saipan and visitors," he said.

On cost savings, Camacho said it's no secret that the CNMI has faced several financial challenges, thus, the allocation of funds towards lease payments for office space places a strain on financial resources.

He said by eliminating the need for leasing, they can redirect these funds toward priority projects and initiatives that directly benefit the community.

On services, the mayor said with a more centralized and dedicated space, they can optimize their resources to enhance the quality and accessibility of the services they provide to the public.

He said this includes streamlining administrative processes, improving public engagement, and fostering a stronger sense of community.

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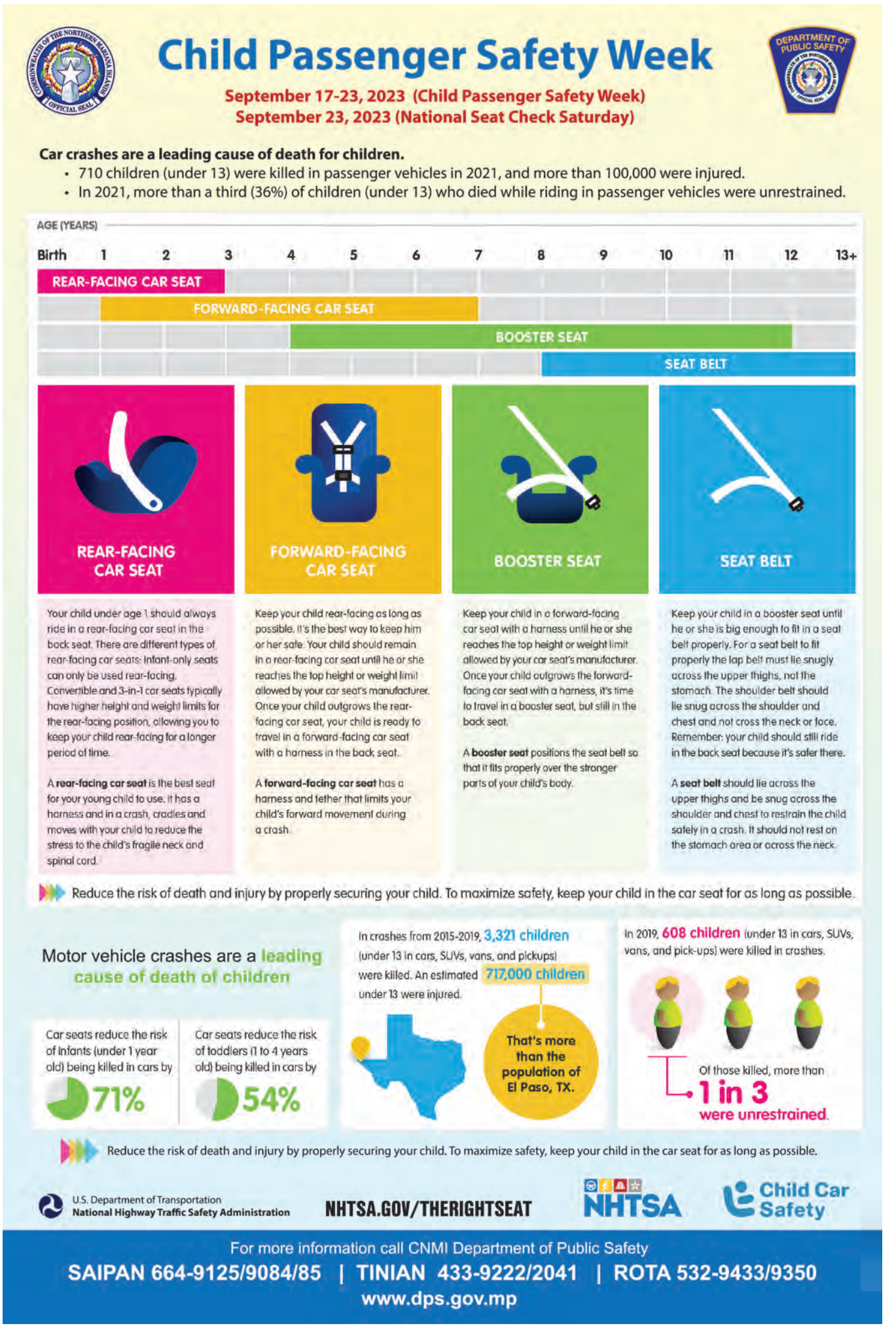
Child Passenger Safety Week
September 17-23, 2023 (Child Passenger Safety Week)
September 23, 2023 (National Seat Check Saturday)
Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children.
• 710 children (under 13) were killed in passenger vehicles in 2021, and more than 100,000 were injured.
• In 2021, more than a third (36%) of children (under 13) who died while riding in passenger vehicles were unrestrained.
AGE (YEARS)
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FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT
BOOSTER SEAT
SEAT BELT
REAR-FACING CAR SEAT
Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat in the back seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.
A rear-facing car seat is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.
FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness in the back seat.
A forward-facing car seat has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.
BOOSTER SEAT
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.
A booster seat positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.
SEAT BELT
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.
A seat belt should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.
Reduce the risk of death and injury by properly securing your child. To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible.
Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death of children
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In crashes from 2015-2019, 3,321 children (under 13 in cars, SUVs, vans, and pickups) were killed. An estimated 717,000 children under 13 were injured.
That's more than the population of El Paso, TX.
In 2019, 608 children (under 13 in cars, SUVs, vans, and pick-ups) were killed in crashes.
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Municipal council breaks ground on new home in Chalan Kanoa

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Construction officially began for the new home of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council as members of the 17th council, dignitaries, including Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, broke ground on the project at the lot near the U.S. Post Office yesterday in Chalan Kanoa.

"Today is a historic moment for all of us [and] the Municipality of Saipan. This has been a longtime project that we've planned since way back in 2015 actually, when I first became the mayor of Saipan," said Apatang.

He shared that shortly after he had become mayor, Typhoon Soudelor damaged the former council office and as they were recovering, and making plans to rebuild, Super Typhoon Yutu hit, changing the plans anew.

Apatang still continued to work with the council in the past and present to get the project going. After eight years and the challenges and setbacks caused by Typhoon Soudelor, Super Typhoon Yutu, and difficulties regarding location, they were able to secure a good and workable place.

"We continued to pursue this project because of the Federal Emergency Management Agency," he said, while appreciating other federal partners, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation led by chair Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who had also provided additional funding for the project, and past and present municipal councils that have and are continuing to work hard on the project.

Council secretary Carmen Cabrera Pangelinan, meanwhile, said "We've been looking forward to this groundbreaking and it will be very nice to get together with the Saipan municipality, and also thinking of our neighboring islands. It's also a place to meet and get together. This building is for the people…One municipality for Saipan and the Northern Islands, and the neighboring islands of Tinian and Rota."

The contract amount is $850,505.81 and the contractor for the project is R3A General Services LLC. The completion date of the project is set for June 7, 2024.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang led the groundbreaking rites for the new Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council building yesterday in Chalan Kanoa.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Dignitaries join Lt Gov. David M. Apatang and members of the 17th Saipan and the Northern Islands Municipal Council as they break ground on the council's new building in Chalan Kanoa yesterday.

POLICE

From page 1

threats were reported.

Saipan Tribune learned that police were tasked to stake out FMS for the entire day yesterday due to threats made about a school shooting.

As for COVMS, police were called to the school at around 2:45pm yesterday to respond to a bomb threat.

According to a press release from the CNMI Public School System, Chacha Oceanview Middle School received information on social media regarding a possible threat to "bomb the school."

"Students were evacuated to the designated safe zone and the Department of Public Safety was called immediately to investigate the situation and provide direct assistance," said PSS.

PSS said in its public statement that at 4:51pm, DPS and COVMS gave the all-clear signal.

"We will continue to cooperate with DPS as they pursue the investigation. All students and staff are safe at this time," said PSS.

As for classes, PSS said all COVMS classes remain as scheduled today but law enforcement will be present to provide additional security and reassurance to the COMS community.

Saipan Tribune visited COVMS at around 3pm and observed parents standing worriedly just outside the campus' entrance as they awaited news about the safety of their children.

Saipan Tribune also noticed several police vehicles and ambulances barricading the front and back entrance of COVMS.

According to one of the parents, she initially thought that the threat was a drill, but she was shocked to learn that it was real and that students were being evacuated to the school field.

She stated that she feared for her child's safety as it took a while for the police to inform them what was going on and whether there was no longer a threat.

Aside from evacuation, students were also told to leave their bags at the school to be searched.

As for FMS, DPS issued a press release stating that on Sept. 11, DPS responded to an online threat about a school shooting.

Starting yesterday, in response to the threat, DPS Commissioner Clement Bermudes implemented security measures for FMSMS and ordered for police presence on campus to ensure the safety of students, staff, and visitors.

As DPS continues to investigate the threat, DPS will assist with screening all students and vehicles at entrances and conduct frequent patrols, perimeter security, and random K-9 inspections.

"Our Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigations Bureau (DPS CIB) and Federal Partners will continue investigating this threat. We ask our community to follow these new security measures at FMSMS to ensure a safe learning environment. We take this matter seriously so our students remain safe and focused on learning," said Bermudes.

PALACIOS

From page 1

Palacios talked about retiree bonus when asked for comments about Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero's (D-Saipan) filing of Senate Resolution No. 23-10 that urges him to reserve funds to provide a retiree bonus or COLA to be distributed equally to all government retirees and CNMI Fund members receiving an annuity upon resolution of the CNMI's financial crisis. The resolution has been referred to the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee.

Palacios said they must afford to pay the basic 75% retiree pension benefits that the government is mandated to pay, and if they can make the retirees whole with the additional 25%, then they can look into providing such bonus.

"The bonus at this point of time absent a manna from heaven is a pie in the sky," he said.

The governor said he is not going to say anything negative toward that resolution as "we would all love to see our retirees get a bonus."

The government is mandated by a federal court settlement order to pay only 75% of government retirees' pensions. The previous Torres administration had been adding into the payment of the 25% portion of the pensions to ensure that retirees get 100% of their monthly pensions.

MCCOY

From page 1

over the impending increase in airport landing fees in an email yesterday to Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), who chairs the Senate Public Utilities, Transportation & Communications Committee.

He said while they understand the need for revenue generation and infrastructure improvements at airports, they are deeply concerned about the potential adverse consequences of increasing landing fees.

To keep CNMI airports open, the Commonwealth Ports Authority board recently adopted a new rate methodology that reflects a 90% increase in landing fees and a 79% increase in terminal fees starting Oct. 1, 2023.

McCoy requested reconsideration and encouraged a dialogue between the Chamber and Manglona's office to explore more sustainable and equitable solutions for funding airport improvements.

McCoy asked to consider the delicate balance between revenue generation and fostering economic development.

"We believe there are alternative methods to support our airports and their infrastructure needs while avoiding undue financial strain on our local businesses and residents," he said.

The Chamber president said local businesses, both small and large, rely heavily on efficient and cost-effective air travel connections to engage in commerce, attract investors, and foster economic growth.

KAN

From page 1

another complaint against IPI with the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday over the casino investor's continuous failure to make payments toward its contractual obligations even after a default judgment was issued against them last year.

As relief, Kan Pacific is demanding a jury trial on the matter as well as an order from the court enjoining IPI to make its scheduled June 2023 payment with pre- and post-judgment interest from date of default, and damages.

According to Iacopino, IPI still has an ongoing obligation to Kan Pacific pursuant to an agreement they had back in May 2016.

Although the court issued a judgment in Kan Pacific's first suit against IPI for its failure to make its June 2020, June 2021, and June 2022 payments amounting to over $400,000, IPI has again defaulted on its June 2023 payment.

In addition, IPI has yet to satisfy the court's judgment in Kan Pacific's initial breach of contract suit.

According to the complaint, pursuant to the agreement between Kan Pacific and IPI, the latter is contractually obligated to pay to Kan Pacific the sum of $5,000,000 which was to be satisfied by making 25 annual payments in the amount of $200,000 on June 1 of each calendar year, commencing on June 1, 2017.

IPI made the first three annual payments that were due in June 2017, June 2018, and June 2019.

However, IPI failed and refused to pay the amount that that was due on June 1,2020, even after Kan Pacific sent IPI the 10-day notice of default.

Kan Pacific finally filed civil action against IPI with the District Court for the NMI for breach of contract based upon IPI's failure to make the payments due on June 1. 2020, June 1, 2021, and June I, 2022.

The court issued a judgment in favor of Kan Pacific in December 2022 in the amount of $697,801.30 plus post-judgment interest under the federal rate of 4.76% per annum.

However, to date, the judgment remains unpaid.

Kan Pacific has also recently applied for a writ of execution against IPI's personal properties to satisfy the unpaid judgment but IPI has since opposed the request.

IPI alleges that senior lien holders, like USA Fanter and Joshua Gray, should be given priority.

Palacios no issue with Senate president invoking FOIA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has no issue with Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero's (D-Saipan) invoking the Freedom of Information Act to get documents regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's reimbursements for CNMI expenditures since 2018 with respect to all disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In an interview with the media Tuesday, Palacios said everybody has the freedom to submit a FOIA request.

The governor said maybe DeLeon Guerrero doesn't believe what's coming out of the Public Assistance Office. He did not elaborate.

The Senate president recently wrote a letter addressed to the FOIA officer in Washington, D.C., requesting for documents regarding FEMA's reimbursements for CNMI expenditures since 2018 pertaining to Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and the pandemic

At a Senate session Monday, DeLeon Guerrero said knowing the expenses that were expended by the CNMI government with respect to all such disasters and also for reimbursements that the CNMI received from FEMA is important during their deliberations with respect to the fiscal year 2024 budget.

Agat mother sentenced to 11 months in federal prison for SNAP fraud

HAGATNA, Guam—Shawn N. Anderson, United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced that defendant Eugena Palomo Lane, age 39, from Agat, Guam, was sentenced to 11 months' imprisonment by the District Court of Guam.

Lane was convicted of Wire Fraud and Unauthorized Use, Transfer, Acquisition, Alteration, or Possession of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and 7 U.S.C. § 2024. The Court also ordered three years of supervised release, restitution in the amount of $56,271, and a $200 mandatory special assessment fee. Defendants convicted of SNAP fraud are barred from further participation in the program.

From April 2015 to February 2022, Lane defrauded the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) in order to obtain SNAP benefits to which she was not entitled. DPHSS is responsible for determining eligibility and issuing SNAP benefits, formerly known as Food Stamps. SNAP is a 100% federally funded program that provides financial aid to eligible recipients for use at authorized retail food stores. One factor DPHSS considers in issuing SNAP benefits is the applicant's household size. Lane falsely reported to Guam DPHSS that her children were part of her household in her SNAP applications when in fact she was living separate and apart from her children. Lane admitted to using the SNAP benefits she received for her own personal gain and not for her children.

As a result of Lane's deceit, she received $56,271.00 in fraudulently obtained SNAP benefits.

"Federal SNAP funding provides important nutritional benefits to children facing food insecurity," stated United States Attorney Anderson. "Unfortunately, many children go hungry in our communities. This prosecution sends a message of deterrence to those who stand in the way of the benefits they deserve."

This investigation was conducted by Guam DPHSS Investigation & Recovery Office and prosecuted by Benjamin K. Petersburg, Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Guam. ***(PR)***

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SEPT 8 21
Child Health Check
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Lucky De Market, Dan Dan from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
New Dolphin Market, San Jose from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
SEPT 6 15
Women's Health Check
For women who haven't seen a healthcare provider longer than 1 year, pap smears, breast exams, pre/post partum care, resources & referrals
CGC Systems of Care, San Antonio from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
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Nurturing the next generation: CNMI's FANH workforce collab

The Northern Marianas College recently welcomed the University of Guam NextGen delegation as part of the Inception Workshop with UOG, Guam Community College, University of Hawai'i, Utah State University, and the University of Florida for the creation of a cooperative BS Degree Program for the Mariana Islands in the hopes of building and sustaining the next generation of the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences (FANH) workforce.

The NextGen delegation performed an on-the-ground assessment of the college, met with the NMC student body, Project PROA director Kaelani Demapan and NMC Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services interim dean Patricia Coleman. Additionally, off-campus, the NextGen delegation was given a tour of the American Memorial Park and Division of Coastal Resources Management Mangrove Nursery, in collaboration with DCRM Watershed Coordinator Zachary Williams, Project Kupu interns, and Marianas Islands Nature Alliance Program manager/marine biologist Dave Benavente.

The objectives of this workshop are to review the technical elements of the grant project, confirm project objectives, review the work plan and budget, and reaffirm the commitment of partner institutions in the Marianas and the individuals involved. The scoping sessions will help generate a contextual assessment, identify appropriate programs and courses, and address challenges. This collaboration aims to ensure student retention, degree completion, and accountability. ***(PR)***

NMC

The NextGen delegation performed an on-the-ground assessment of the Northern Marianas College and met with the NMC student body, among others.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Housekeeping Director (Saipan, MP) Responsible for establishing standard procedures for work of housekeeping associates, planning their work schedules, performing daily inspections, hiring, training, & supervising housekeeping associates, & evaluating their performance, HS/GED, 2 yrs of housekeeping supervisor exp reqd.

Mail resume to Micronesia Resort Inc., at PO Box 5152, CHRB San Roque Saipan, MP 96950.

Administrative Hearing Office updated forms

The CNMI Department of Labor Administrative Hearing Office is responsible for adjudicating labor and wage disputes, compliance cases brought by DOL Enforcement officers, and appeals to department denials. A majority of litigants appearing before the Administrative Hearing Office are self-represented and unfamiliar with the applicable legal standards and administrative procedures. To protect impartiality, promote accessibility, and better meet the needs of all parties involved, the Administrative Hearing Office has updated the following forms, effective Sept. 1, 2023:

- Request to Proceed In Forma Pauperis Form (i.e., filing fee waiver form);
- Complaint Form;
- Answer Form;
- Request for Accommodations Form;
- Interpreter Certifying Statement Form;
- Application for Subpoena Form;
- Hearing Request Form;
- Request to Shorten Time Form;
- Request to Extend Time Form;
- Request for Voluntary Dismissal Form;
- Secretary Appeal Form;
- Request for Records Form; and
- Agreement to Mediate

The information requested on the forms is tailored to the applicable laws and legal standards from the NMI Administrative Code and other persuasive authority. The new forms will allow parties to effectively represent themselves and provide the necessary guidance in navigating the Administrative Hearings process. Additionally, the information provided will better assist the Administrative Hearing Office in efficiently processing and evaluating cases and requests.

The updated and newly implemented forms may be found on the CNMI DOL website or at www.marianaslabor.net under forms and publications. Hardcopies will be available in the office. For further information, contact the Administrative Hearing Office at tel. 664-3291/3292 or email hearing@dol.gov.mp or visit the office at the CNMI DOL building no. 1357 on Capitol Hill.

CNMI DOL is an equal opportunity employer/program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Visit the CNMI DOL's website at www.marianaslabor.net for more Administrative Hearing Office-related information. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER

DUTIES / RESPONSIBILITIES:
Responsible for ensuring manufactured products meet set standards for quality, reliability and performance; Gaining and understanding of the client's needs and requirements and communicating with them the quality standards to the production teams; Devising, improving and reviewing new specifications and procedures for products or processes and training staff to use them; Setting the requirements for raw materials from suppliers and monitoring their compliance; Supervising production plant operators, technicians, and other staff members and providing guidance; Ensuring compliance with regulatory bodies and with health and safety guidelines; Overseeing product development procedures to identify any deviations from quality standards; Inspecting the final output, comparing it to the requirements and approving or rejecting the final products; Keeping accurate documentation and performing statistical analysis.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree in Quality Assurance; Business Management; Engineering or similar field; Foreign equivalent is acceptable;
- Minimum of Five (5) years-experience in construction materials and supplies;
- Must be familiar with different types of asphalt, concrete, aggregate, cement and sand used/required for specific construction projects; and
- Travel within the geographical areas of the three (3) islands of the CNMI (Saipan, Tinian & Rota).

WORKING CONDITIONS:
- 40 hours per work

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Mark Anthony Vereen, Manager
Hawaiian Rock Products
Naftan Rd., Obyan Area
PMB 139 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no.: 1(670) 288-0407
Email: mvereen@hawaiianrock.com

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Minimum Requirements: Must have 12 months experience. High School Diploma or equivalent. Ability to diagnose and repair vehicles and follow safety instructions and directions. Proficiency with hand tools and other equipment. Record keeping and maintaining inventory. Applicants must pass Auto Parts skilled test (Total Passing Score of 89%) during application process. The skill testing and comprehension exam are required equally of both US and Foreign workers. Must be able to work on weekends and holidays on short notice.

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JKPL

Team JKPL with Sinot Daniel Matao Pangelinan and Adam Llanes at the JKPL Children of Our Homeland

JKPL

Baby Pution and parents Maria and Daniel Pangelinan.

Puti-on La'yak Esteves Pangelinan, son of Maria Angeles Hocog Esteves-Pangelinan and Daniel J. Pangelinan, donated two new books—The Official Chamorro-English Dictionary/Ufisiat Na Diksionarion Chamorro-Engles—to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Pacific Room.

"We are humbled and excited to receive this valuable donation from Puti-on and his family," said Library director Erlinda C. Naputi.

"Ufisiat Na Diksionarion Chamorro-Engles will be a valuable resource for our researchers and students."

Puti-on's father, Daniel J. Pangelinan (Sinot Matao), is a lead co-instructor from the University of Guam's School of Education CHamoru Researcher Assistant Program.

Sinot Matao accompanied by research assistant Adam Llanes visited the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library last Sept. 1 and presented these important books to Team JKPL on behalf of his son Puti-on. The Official Chamorro-English Dictionary/Ufisiat Na Diksionarion Chamorro-Engles will be available for reference at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Pacific Room.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at www.cnmilib.org like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: joeten kiyu public library or visit our website www.cnmilib.org to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community. For more information regarding any of our activities, please contact JKPL @670-235-7322/7318.

JKPL welcomes and encourages businesses to please consider donating Educational Tax Credit. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is able to receive cash contributions under Educational Tax Credit. Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404.

JKPL's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday to Thursday, 10am-6pm; Friday, 1:30pm-7pm; and Saturday, 9am-4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, Austerity Saturdays, and holidays. Closed for JKPL austerity on Sept. 16 and 30, 2023.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-252496-OLS-22 and LS-253665-OLS-23.

JKPL is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

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RFQ23-CHCC/DESIGN & BUILD/IDIQ-016-A1

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientists. Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications, and material quantities using a calculator or computer. Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine the dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layout for projects and to ensure conformance to the specifications. Confer with supervisors to determine project details such as preparation, acceptance testing, and evaluations of field conditions. Analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings. The employee must have his transportation to and from various job sites at which employee may be to work day to day.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
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- At least 24 months experience

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FROM RIDGE TO REEF

A Series of Articles Written by the 2023 DCRM Summer Interns

Issue No. 3 of 8

www.dcrm.gov.mp

An Ecosystem in Danger of Extinction

GRACE CHOI

Coral reefs are one of the planet's oldest, diverse and most valuable ecosystems. Although they have survived the extinction of dinosaurs and the climate changes of the ice age, they are currently in danger of extinction. Living coral coverage worldwide has declined by half since the 1950s (Eddy et al., 2021). It is of vital importance that we protect and restore our coral reefs here in the CNMI.

Coral bleaching is the most obvious visual indicator of climate change in the marine environment. Corals have a mutually beneficial relationship with an algae called zooxanthellae, one cannot survive without the other. The algae lives within coral tissue and gives corals their bright colors. When there are changes in environmental conditions, such as increases in temperature, corals will become stressed and expel the algae, causing them to bleach, turning completely white. Corals can survive a bleaching event only if conditions quickly go back to normal.

This summer I had the opportunity to work on the development of CNMI's Coral Bleaching Response monitoring protocol, under the Division of Coastal Resources Management's (DCRM) Coral Reef Initiative. My mentor, Elly Perez, is a NOAA Coral Fellow working to establish a protocol to assess and understand how bleaching events affect coral reefs in the CNMI.

The most recent and severe bleaching event in the CNMI occurred in 2017. At the time, there was no plan in place to help guide assessments of damage and little to no public information disseminated to raise awareness of the event. CNMI's bleaching response plan will not only outline strategies for prediction, assessment, and informing the public about coral bleaching events, but will also help produce management recommendations for conserving CNMI's coral reef resources.

Throughout the summer, Elly and I went to various long-term Marine Monitoring sites in Saipan to conduct Rapid Visual Bleaching Assessment (RVA) surveys. Testing and evaluating these new survey methods are crucial in maximizing effectiveness of response actions and will help ensure the efficient use of resources.

A side project I worked on with my mentor was creating a Coral Identification Guide of the common corals in the Marianas. One of my favorite parts of the internship was being able to incorporate my hobby with work. I was able to use DCRM's camera to take photos of coral to later identify them. Some of the photos I took out in the field were used in the guide that we created for those who need help identifying corals for future surveys.

All in all, being a summer intern at DCRM has been an unforgettable experience where I have learned a plethora of things from experts while meeting new people.

Eddy, T. D., Lam, V. W. Y., Reygondeau, G., Cisneros-Montemayor, A. M., Greer, K., Palomares, M. L., Bruno, J. F., Ota, Y., & Cheung, W. W. L. (2021). Global decline in capacity of coral reefs to provide ecosystem services. One Earth, 4(9), 1278–1285. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2021.08.016

Seas to Sips: Unraveling the Mysteries Within Our Waters

FRANCINE ALBUEN

In the heart of the laboratory, a collection of scientific studies plays out, driven by a passionate commitment to the environment and public health. At the Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality (BECQ), scientists embark on an essential mission to safeguard our shores and ensure the purity of our drinking water. Being part of a coastal community, we experience first-hand the effects of climate change. How does climate change affect our waters, you may ask? As a summer intern working under the Division of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Environmental Surveillance Laboratory, I had the experience to witness what is truly in our waters. Now let's take a closer look!

During my time as a summer intern, I have come to understand that precision plays a crucial role within the lab. When procedures are not properly followed, results come out inaccurate. The DEQ lab is divided into two sections: the chemistry section and the microbiology section. In the chemistry section, we test conductivity, turbidity, and Nitrite levels, among others. In the microbiology section, we examine marine and drinking water for enterococcus bacteria, total coliform, and E. coli bacteria. Testing our water is important for a

variety of reasons as it helps us to understand and monitor the quality of water sources, protects the public's safety, and ensures the availability of clean and safe water.

In an article titled, "Water Quality & Testing," it states that "even though water supplies are considered to be among the safest in the world, water contamination can still occur. There are many possible sources of contamination, including: local land use practices (fertilizers, etc.), sewage releases, and much more." This represents a call for action, encouraging readers to recognize the nature of changes in water quality and the importance in preserving both the environment and human health.

All in all, my time as a lab intern has taught me one major thing: precision is key. I've learned that even the smallest factors can have a significant impact. The worked I've done this summer has led me to one question: What can we do to change the way we treat our environment and what can we do to protect our island's beauty for future generations? As an aspiring chemist, I'm determined to create change for our community, and hopefully establish a sustainable and resilient future for our island and generations to come.

"Importance of Water Quality and Testing." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 28 Oct. 2020, www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/public/water_quality.html. Accessed 14 Aug. 2023.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 184

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Kevin McCarthy is pushing a Biden impeachment inquiry so thin you can see right through it

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's announcement that he is commissioning a formal inquiry into impeaching President Joe Biden—without first securing a vote by the full House—is cynical and unjustified. But it's not surprising.

Again and again the California Republican has accommodated the extremists in his conference who hold his speakership hostage. McCarthy seems more interested in clutching on to his title than dispelling perceptions that he is anything more than a stooge of the far right.

Nor can McCarthy's reckless action be defended as a way to entice extreme Republicans to pass a temporary funding package avoid to a government shutdown after Sept. 30. Impeachment—or even a formal impeachment inquiry—shouldn't be used as a bargaining chip in budget negotiations.

It's notable that McCarthy is bypassing a vote by the full House, which he might have lost because of the skittishness of more moderate Republican members. Former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., was criticized for launching the first impeachment inquiry into Donald Trump in 2019 without obtaining authorization by the full House, but a floor vote eventually was held, and it was approved. McCarthy was among Pelosi's critics.

In announcing the impeachment inquiry Tuesday, McCarthy claimed that "House Republicans have uncovered serious and credible allegations into President Biden's conduct. Taken together, these allegations paint a picture of a culture of corruption."

In fact, despite their best efforts, congressional Republicans' investigations have failed to develop credible evidence that Biden as vice president profited from his son Hunter's business dealings. Much-hyped testimony by a former Hunter Biden associate in July was anticlimactic. The associate, Devon Archer, did not substantiate allegations that Joe Biden had any significant involvement in his son's business affairs.

On Tuesday, McCarthy also said that "it appears that the president's family has been offered special treatment by Biden's own administration." Two veteran investigators for the Internal Revenue Service have testified that the Department of Justice showed favoritism to Hunter Biden, whose plea bargain arrangement with prosecutors collapsed and who now faces indictment, reportedly in relation to allegations that he made a false claim on a federal form that he was not using drugs when he purchased a gun. It's legitimate for Congress to ask whether Hunter Biden received unfair treatment, but nothing about the prosecution of Hunter Biden justifies the drastic step of an impeachment inquiry about his father.

Under the Constitution, presidents can be impeached and on conviction removed from office for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." In ramming through an impeachment inquiry on flimsy grounds, McCarthy is demeaning the Constitution as well as his own office.

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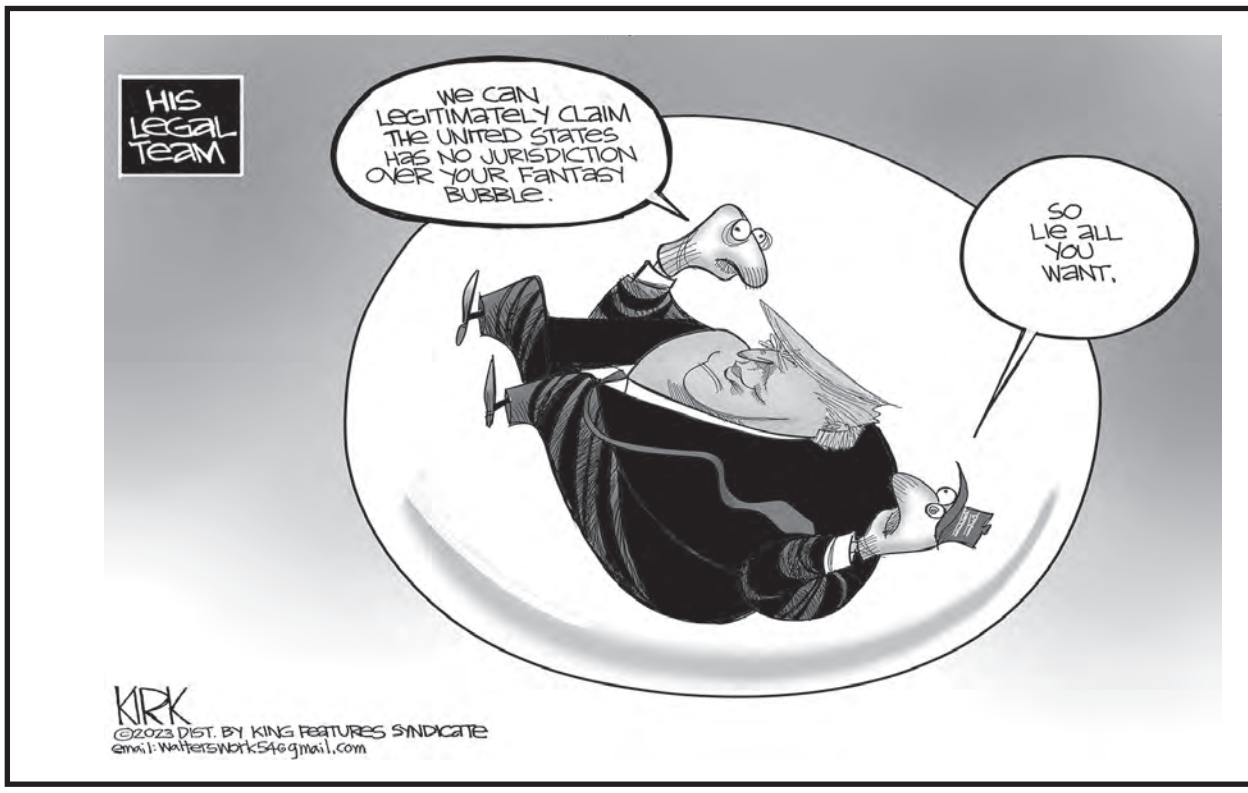
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You can support our democracy, or you can support the party of Donald J. Trump

By MELINDA HENNEBERGER
The Kansas City Star

Maybe evangelicals forgot to tell their favorite libertine that it's only in heaven that "the last shall be first, and the first last." But at some point, the party of Donald J. Trump stopped believing that it's up to voters to decide who gets to govern.

I say this as folks who only call themselves conservative—coups d'état are never that—strategize about how to impeach Joe Biden for fun and profit. They have no high or low crimes or misdemeanors to cite. But they do have a reason, which as the light of their world wrote on Truth Social is "THEY DID IT TO US!"

In Wisconsin, the former Grand Old Party is, according to The New York Times "coalescing around the prospect of impeaching a newly seated liberal justice on the state's Supreme Court, whose victory in a costly, high-stakes election this spring swung the court in Democrats' favor."

Justice Janet Protasiewicz has not yet heard a single case, but the pretext for her hoped-for removal, which has been under discussion since before her election, is that she has been open about seeing the electoral congressional maps drawn in her state as "rigged."

(Should she instead have winked into the camera and emulated all those U.S. Supreme Court justices who pretended during their confirmation hearings that Roe v. Wade wasn't going anywhere? Presumably, yes.)

Republicans target Fani Willis

In Georgia, meanwhile, a new law that Gov. Brian Kemp signed this May makes it possible for a commission appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, state House speaker and a state Senate committee on assignments to investigate and remove prosecutors they see as failing to properly enforce laws. When Kemp signed it, he said it was intended to rein in "far-left prosecutors."

Georgia state Sen. Colton Moore will not, it seems, be able to immediately defund or derail the efforts of Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis, who is prosecuting Trump for pressuring Kemp and others to overturn his 2020 loss in their state.

But like other radicals, Moore is still warning that extreme measures are justified because that's the only way to avoid the civil war that he and his fellow extremists miss no opportunity to incite.

"If we don't" keep Willis from doing her job by prosecuting Trump, Moore reasoned, "our constituencies are gonna be fighting it in the streets. Do you want a civil war? I don't want a civil war. I don't want to have to draw my rifle. I want to make this problem go away with my legislative means of doing so."

Legislative, but not legal, even under the highly partisan new law.

Alabama defies courts on voting rights

In Alabama, lawmakers who think elections shouldn't necessarily have the consequences intended by voters not only drew an illegal congressional map, but then refused to respond to the federal judges who told them to fix it.

Even when told to try again, they couldn't bring themselves to create a second majority-Black district in the state, or anything close to that.

In response, the three-judge panel said in a new ruling that it is "deeply troubled" by Alabama's antidemocratic refusal: "The law requires the creation of an additional district that affords Black Alabamians, like everyone else, a fair and reasonable opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. The 2023 Plan plainly fails to do so." Just as intended.

Across the country, the party of honest Abe has become the party of performance artists like Vivek Ramaswamy. The former national security party has allowed Alabama Sen. Tommy Tuberville to block military promotions for the last eight months. The former law and order party promises to pardon "a large portion" of cop-beating Jan. 6 insurrectionists.

Missouri's GOP AG wants to overturn KCPD conviction

Yet in Missouri, the party that so steadfastly fights freeing the wrongfully convicted is determined to overturn the conviction of former KCPD detective Eric DeValkenaere, the one Kansas City cop ever convicted of killing a Black man.

In our state, too, all of the most prominent members of the DJT Party continue to undermine our democracy with the lie that won't die, that Trump wuz robbed in 2020. Oh, and that he is being prosecuted now for reasons that have nothing to do with the multiple ways in which he tried to end America as we've known it by staying in office after an election he knew he had lost.

If you really thought you won, why would you give up on winning at the polls ever again? If you believed in either the idea or ideals of America, would an ally be on TV saying, as Mike Huckabee recently did, that unless you win next time, "it is going to be the last American election that will be decided by ballots rather than bullets."

Nice country you got there, and it'd be a shame if anything were to happen to it.

The problem underneath all of this is not that the boy who was never held accountable for any lie he ever told or con he ever sold is now, as a 77-year-old adolescent, testing our system as never before. It's that the former Daddy Party collapsed more spectacularly than I would have believed possible instead of ever standing up to him either.

I used to think its adherents were better than this, and maybe still harbor some fumes of hope that this whole sad devolution ends Capra style, with the justices Trump put on the Supreme Court disqualifying him from office.

But would Josh Hawley then admit that he knew all along who our most cynical president was and was not? We all know the answer. Which is why so many defectors from the old Republican Party have realized that only voting Trump's many courtiers out of office can save us from Trumpism.

How California can get on right path and give Latinos bigger voice in gov't

By CESAR MONTOYA
Los Angeles Times

Cesar Montoya is the senior policy analyst for the UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute.

One of Gov. Gavin Newsom's primary responsibilities is appointing individuals to fill vacancies within state boards and commissions. However, his office lacks a public system to check whether these appointees reflect the communities they are meant to serve.

Regrettably, these seats often fail to mirror the diversity inherent to California, particularly when it comes to the underrepresentation of Latinos. Despite making up 39% of the population, Latinos remain marginalized within these appointments, and lack of transparency around data on the governor's appointments obscures the true extent of this underrepresentation.

There is a promising solution before us. Senate Bill 702, authored by state Sen. Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara), would require the office of the governor to create and publish an annual report on the demographic composition of all appointees made that year to state boards and commissions. This report would offer the transparency needed for targeted advocacy to diversify boards and commissions that wield significant influence across the state.

From overseeing access to retirement for public educators through the California State Teachers' Retirement System, to cleaning contaminated lands in vulnerable communities through the Board of Environmental Safety, to the review authority of the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, these bodies sit at the nexus of the governor's administrative powers and his wide oversight of issues affecting our communities.

Last year, the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute, where I work, released an analysis of Latino representation in the governor's appointments to 45 critical commissions within the state's agencies and departments. The report found that Latinos have the largest representation gap among all racial groups, filling only 18.4% of executive appointments — more than twice as many would be needed to accurately reflect the number of Latinos in the state. Among women, Latinas remain the most severely underrepresented.

In practical terms this means that these commissions are not accurately representing the communities they are supposed to serve. Latino students make up the majority of California's K-12 educational system, but the community is underrepresented on educational boards. Similarly, Latino communities bear the brunt of many of the state's environmental burdens, yet there is a stark absence of their voices within the state's environmental commissions. Moreover, while they are a driving force in the state's labor growth and job creation, Latinos lack substantial representation on workforce development boards.

SB 702 is at a critical juncture as another legislative session draws to an end. Last year the bill was vetoed by Newsom, who cited budget constraints. The governor has a commendable track record of historic gubernatorial appointments, including installing the state's first Black secretary of state, its first attorney general of Filipino descent and the first Latino U.S. senator to represent California. But the public deserves to know what progress is being achieved across all appointments, including the most obscure. If the bill is not passed, it limits our ability to understand what constituencies are absent from decision-making.

As a state whose economic progress and success are entwined with the Latino community, we must undertake rigorous efforts to monitor, understand and rectify the pattern that consigns Latinos to the periphery of consequential decision-making bodies. Whether it's corporate tech boards, nonprofit boards, Hollywood or the medical profession, the absence of Latino representation persists. Newsom can help write a new chapter for state boards and commissions. Additionally, this legislation can provide data and resources to organizations such as ours that advocate for the short-and long-term empowerment of Latinos and other underrepresented groups across the state.

Effective governance necessitates the presence of women, diverse populations and the inclusion of lived experiences as forms of expertise. Illinois has already implemented a similar law, which will provide a tool for community leaders advocating for greater representation in their state. Now, California stands poised to meet this moment.

An annual report that tracks the makeup of state commissions and boards will help us put those resources where they are most needed, so that those doing the work that most affects our communities are indeed a reflection of those they are intended to serve.

TOA for Quarry limits free materials extracted

By TERESITA A. SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Teresita A. Santos is the secretary of the Department of Public Lands

In response to the quarry material issue, prior to my advent to the Department of Public Lands, several private quarry operators have existing Temporary Occupancy Agreement for Quarry with DPL.

Article 11 (Public Benefit) of the TOA for Quarry specifically provides that, "With the prior consent of DPL, CNMI government agencies shall be exempted from paying any charges for quarry materials extracted from the quarry site operated by permittee etc."

Most, if not all, of the existing quarry permits were executed during the tenure of former secretary Marianne C. Teregeyo. During this time, DPL issued a letter to the Municipality of Saipan and quarry operators, placing a cap of 100 cubic yards of raw materials that the municipality is authorized to obtain free of charge. However, any acquisition of quarry materials above and beyond the cap, shall be the responsibility of CNMI government agencies to pay the quarry operators.

Article 11 also provides that government agencies are responsible for any and all costs associated with such project to include heavy equipment rental for the extraction, loading and delivery from the quarry site to the project site. Furthermore, processed materials are excluded from this provision and will be charged accordingly by the Permittee.

For the record, the current MOS has obtained unprocessed raw materials above the 100 cubic-yard cap from all existing quarries, in violation of Article 11. The MOS also obtained unauthorized processed quarry materials, also in violation of Article 11. The new MOS has never communicated with DPL regarding quarry materials acquisition since it took over from the former MOS. DPL neither gave the current MOS consent to obtain quarry raw materials above the 100 cubic-yard cap, nor gave consent to obtain processed quarry materials.

It was only after the MOS submitted an invoice from some quarry operators for DPL to remit payment for the processed quarry materials that we (DPL) learned that the MOS improperly obtained such materials in violation of Article 11 of the TOA. Hence, DPL sent a letter to the MOS on July 11, 2023 in response to his letter of July 10, 2023. A copy is attached hereto. The quarry materials that were acquired by the MOS was not the obligation of DPL, thus, DPL should not be made to pay.

In addition, DPL does not arbitrarily breach any of the terms and conditions of the TOA it enforces to be complied with. To address the MOS quarry issue, DPL met with the quarry operators last week to further discuss the matter on hand. Majority of the quarry operators echoed their position to maintain the cap of 100 cubic yards free of charge for raw materials to any of the CNMI government agencies. Increasing the cap will force the quarry operators not to be remitting royalty and BGR payments to DPL which is in violation of the stipulated quarry permit between the parties. Furthermore, this may be an issue MPLT could raise against DPL. Moreover, DPL has offered the MOS a quarry site but was not accepted for the reason that MOS does not have the personnel and equipment to operate one.

As the secretary of the Department of Public Lands, I am held to strict standards of fiduciary care to ensure that DPL manage and administer the Commonwealth's public lands under the provisions of Article XI of the NMI Constitution and Public Law 15-02, in the best interest of all persons of Northern Marianas Descent.

Finally, if DPL is faced with legal action, I have the duty to answer to the litigation and not anyone else. Thus, I proceed cautiously with every decision and action I make for the department. And at the end of the day, I am accountable to all NMDs, the true collective owners of all Article XI lands.

Enescent sonnets for September

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

A senescent sign off sheet on standard elementary particles

What are the last seconds of thought before we go

Oh my Oh wow! Holy crap! There's nothing there.
Wait a minute there is something, I can't see a thing
There is a dim light Oh oh now the lights gone out
There's the Big Bang, oh it was just a little blink

All the frozen strawberries are melting
Neutrinos are knifing through the ice
I still can't see or feel a single thing
All my red and white corpuscles sing

All those people who kept on saying
We tried to show you tried to tell you
Are underground or burned to a crisp
Longevity is but a will-o-the-wisp

Adios amigo see you down the road
Goodbye you all and to my ego too
A supernova is about to explode
Gravitational waves coming through

Lights in the sky coming through the dark
A dog pees on a flowering bush in the park.

At 73 senile old me

I read this meme on FB: "They say 70% of the population is stupid. I'm so glad I am part of the other 40%". It took me a little while to get it.

I must be somewhat near to the 73rd percentile
73 years of age showing signs of being senile
And getting worse mile after mile after mile
Stumbling along life's slippery and rocky road
Never in denial of poor mathematical ability
Possessing at most a very minimal capability
In a world full of jokers facing partial reality
Doubling down daily on nonsensical doggerel
Rhyming off the top of my head my specialty
An aging Boomer retaining a sense of humor
Somewhere up in my now foggy gray matter
I hearken back to Lewis Carroll's Mad Hatter
Down some ridiculous rhyming rabbit hole
Living on an earth of mirth events threshold
Entangled theoretically in a black moldy hole
Relying on the totality of neural networks sum
To pass their way through my corpus callosum
Where queries about string theory find me dumb.

N.B. birthdays on Sept. 14: Classical music composer, Michael Haydn (brother of Joseph Haydn) on 09/14/ 1737 in Austria. He wrote 20 symphonies.

Ed King, American guitarist for the rock band Strawberry Alarm Clock and Southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd. Ed wrote "Sweet Home Alabama." Born on 09/14/1949 the same day and year as Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly, Tinian Poet Laureate 2018.

Joey has written more than 400 anti-Trump sonnets from 2016 to present. Maestro para Tinian yan Saipan. Composed thousands of haiku and senryu published in anthologies in Canada, Japan, the U.S., and online.

More than 1,000 sonnets since the '80s on topics from A to Z published in the *Saipan Tribune.* Topics have ranged from Food, Fears, Fun, Asparagus to Zucchini, the Cosmos, Senescence, Abecedarian, Villanelle, Limericks, Raps, free style verse, parodies of Shakespeare, classical to modern poets, and his love for Tinian and the CNMI. He has a penchant for rhyme, like all the time.

On turning 74 I'm raring to go for many more.

KINPACHI RESTAURANT

Home of traditional Japanese cuisine

By TERI M. FLORES
Correspondent

Ask anyone in the know where they can find authentic, home-cooked Japanese meals and for sure, the resounding answer will be Kinpachi Restaurant which is one of Saipan's longest operating dining establishments.

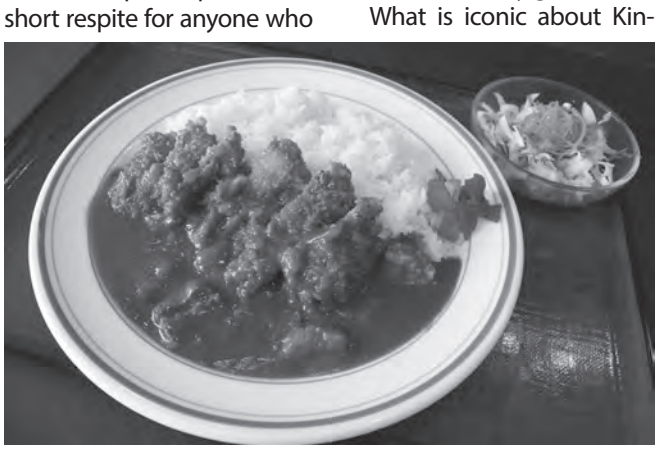
Within the 43 years since it opened its doors to cater to hungry residents and visiting tourists, Kinpachi has become one of the landmarks at Garapan's hotel row. The restaurant's relaxed and casual atmosphere provides a short respite for anyone who wants to enjoy a hearty Japanese meal amidst the busyness of their daily grind.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The present day Kinpachi Restaurant along Coral Tree Avenue in Garapan.

What is iconic about Kinpachi aside from their menu is that it's still operating in the same location as when it first opened on Sept. 15, 1980—exactly across Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and Hyatt Regency Saipan which were then known as the Continental Hotel and InterContinental Hotel, respectively.

Named after a popular Japanese drama in the '80s called "Kinpachi sensei," the family-owned business passed on to Misako Kamata, who together with her mother Keiko, have successfully managed Kinpachi since 1987 when the family patriarch Yoshio passed away.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the Top 5 most popular items in Kinpachi Restaurant is its katsu curry.

DONNA RIVERA

Misako Kamata, daughter of Yoshio and Keiko Kamata, now manages Kinpachi Restaurant. To her left is Sonia Siwa, one of the longest-serving employees of the restaurant who's been with the company for 38 years.

Misako recalls that her father first came to Saipan as a visitor, part of a group of friends who came to the island looking for business opportunities. Several visits later, the elder Kamata thought about opening the Japanese diner since at that time, there were not many places that offered good, home-cooked Japanese meals.

"Back then, there were only a few places to eat around here. This area (referring to the Garapan tourist district) was still lush greenery. Instead of going out, he had to make his own food," recalls Misako.

While he owned some businesses in Japan, the elder Kamata enlisted the help of a friend to open Kinpachi and the rest as they say, is history.

"When he put up Kinpachi, there were only two hotels in front of our restaurant. Now, this place is surrounded by buildings with different businesses. My father picked the right place to open Kinpachi," recalls Misako with pride.

The family patriarch established Kinpachi at the height of Japanese tourism in the CNMI. Kinpachi was one of less than a handful of restaurants on Saipan that offered Japanese staples to visiting tourists.

The restaurant's original menu consisted of food that the elder Kamata liked to cook and eat. Among the restaurant's first offerings were a selection of Japanese seafood barbecue, sake, and other drinks, rice, and Misako's favorites—yakitori and freshly caught fish and clamshells from Micro Beach.

Misako said her father originally intended their menu to feature a variety of dishes that will suit not just different palates. Most important is that the prices are good for the budget to allow both locals and tourists to dine at the restaurant as many times as they want to, within the day. "We have always been committed to quality while always providing our repeat customers with a good selection of food," said Misako.

Earning the loyalty of three generations of diners is the key factor to Kinpachi's longevity. In fact, dining at Kinpachi has now become a tradition for local families who grew up enjoying the authentic taste of Japanese food which is a staple in local households. "Our original customers are now the grandparents. We are now seeing their children bringing their own kids to enjoy a meal at our restaurant," Misako fondly shares.

The Kamatas are proud to be a part of the fabric of the Northern Marianas community which have taken them as family. Their connection with the local community runs deep and this became their source of strength in overcoming obstacles that for other businesses have been the cause of their downfall, especially at the height of Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 and during the COVID-19 pandemic that began in 2020.

The Kamata's generosity

See HOME on Page 13

DONNA RIVERA

To show Kinapchi Restaurant's appreciation to their loyal customers, each one will receive a cactus plant as a special token.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kinpachi Restaurant when it first opened 43 years ago in 1980.

HOME

From page 12

in sharing their resources to their neighbors in need has been well rewarded.

"Our restaurant had power and running water and we shared this to those who needed it especially after the super typhoon. In return, we saw our friends support us by dining at Kinpachi during the pandemic. This allowed us to keep our employees and remain open during COVID," said a grateful Misako.

For its 43rd anniversary, Kinpachi has a special weekend offer that starts today, Sept. 15, until Sunday, Sept. 18, 2023. Patrons can enjoy a 43% discount on all drinks during lunch and dinner services. In addition, there is a "Kabujiki" raffle with gift certificates and coupons as giveaways. Cacti will also be given away to lucky customers.

Today, Kinpachi Restaurant is both a successful business and an iconic landmark which is the home of authentic Japanese cuisine. Misako said she has the local community to thank for this achievement.

"I have no business secret. I am blessed and lucky to have nice customers and at the same time, very good and loyal employees. We really appreciate our customers and friends for their loyalty and continued support for the past 43 years. Our business is still here, and we will always be very grateful," said Kamata.

Located at Coral Tree Avenue across the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Kinpachi Restaurant is open from Tuesday to Sunday with lunch served between 11am and 2pm. Dinner hours are from 5:30pm to 9pm. Kinpachi Restaurant offers a variety of seating areas from counter seating to individual tables for a party of four. There is also a Japanese style sitting area and a private room that can host as much as 30 guests.

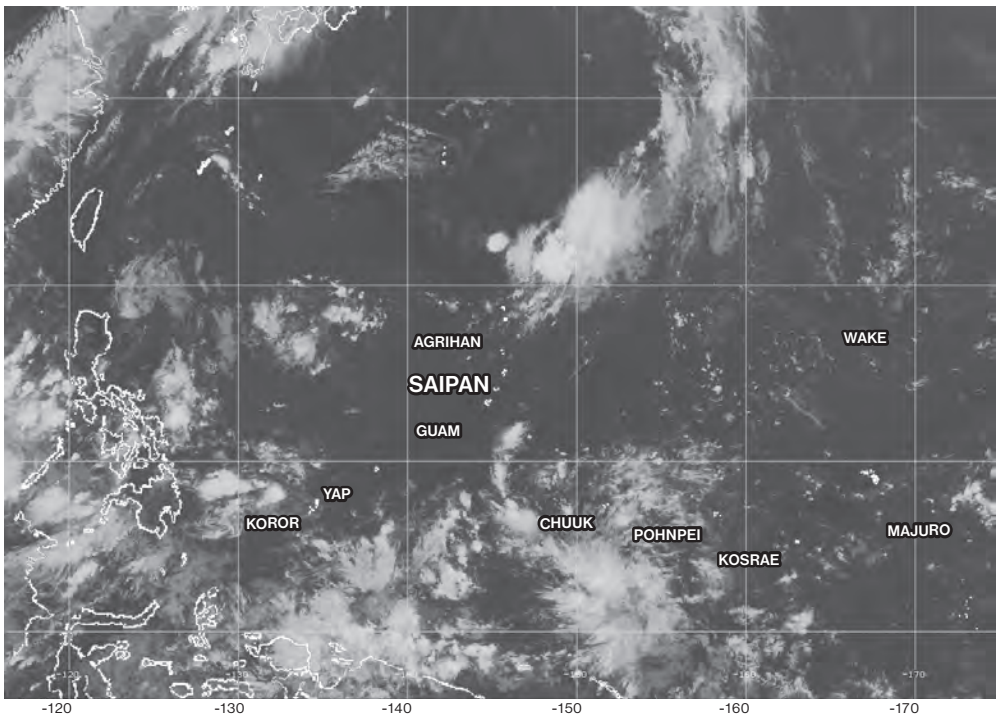
For more information, visit Kinpachi Restaurant at www.kinpachirestaurant.com or Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant on Facebook or call (670) 234-6900.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	88° 79°	88° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:08 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar and Satellite show that pleasant weather and light winds prevail over the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 76°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	57° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	88° / 59°
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Los Angeles	Sunny	76° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
New York	Partly Cloudy	78° / 65°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	82° / 66°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	72° / 57°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	89° / 67°
San Francisco	Windy	66° / 55°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	82° / 65°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:00 AM	6:32 PM	-
Saturday	6:46 AM	7:05 PM	-
Sunday	7:33 AM	7:39 PM	-
Monday	8:21 AM	8:14 PM	-
Tuesday	9:11 AM	8:53 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
1:55 AM	Low Tide	0.84
7:23 AM	High Tide	1.85
2:04 PM	Low Tide	0.30
8:19 PM	High Tide	1.85

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1 up to Sep 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR 111	7:05AM	9:05AM	7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily up to Sep 4
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily from Sep 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1 up to Sep 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR110	11:40PM	5:35AM+1	6
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Enjoy a fun-filled Sunday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

Enjoy a fun-filled Sunday at the heart of the island with something for everyone at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Start your day at Market Place with a free pastry with every purchase of a coffee (7am-10am). Enjoy the tranquility of the morning with panoramic views over the garden or take a morning walk on micro beach.

Sundays are for family and friends and there's no better way to celebrate than Sunday Brunch at The Terrace Restaurant. Feast on a buffet of local and international favorites including a fresh smoked meat carving station, roast pig, baked local fish, snow crab legs on ice, live pasta and omelet stations, sushi and sashimi corner, and more to choose from. Be sure to save some space for sweets with our delicious dessert corner featuring our resort favorite gelato and fresh waffle station! Drinks are on the menu too—Sunday Brunch is inclusive of free-flowing beer, red and white wine, sparkling wine, rose, mimosas, and a special cocktail of the day. Sunday Brunch is available from 11am to 2pm for $65 per adult and $25 per child. Local residents can enjoy Sunday Brunch with a 15% discount.

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

Market Place is offering free pastry with every purchase of a coffee from 7am-10am everyday.

For those looking to relax poolside after brunch take up the Resort Pass special offer—for just an additional $10 per person you'll get an afternoon of fun under the sun with access to the garden and pools after brunch.

Looking for a place to have a memorable Sunday dinner with loved ones? Join us for one of our best kept secrets—the Flavors of the Sea Sunday evening themed buffet at The Terrace Restaurant. Enjoy delicious seafood along with international and local dishes. Dinner is open 5:30pm-9:30 pm for $40 per adult and 50% off per child. Even better, locals get 15% off their meal.

There's no better way to end the day than at Mari Bar. Wrap up the weekend in style with our Sundays in Saipan Golden Hour special—25% discount on all food and drinks, including alcohol from 5pm to 9pm every Sunday.

"We know how important Sundays are to families and friends in Saipan and we're happy to offer activities and products that give everyone the chance to gather and create memorable moments. Whether it be over a delicious meal, splashing in our pools or over cocktails we have something for everyone at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan," said Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan general manager Robert Coates.

For reservations, email restaurants.cprsaipan@ihg.com or call (670) 234-6412.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is a 422-room hotel located in Garapan. Guests will be greeted by the resort's lush tropical gardens and panoramic view of Micro Beach, with Crowne Plaza's warm and friendly hospitality ensuring a seamless arrival. ***(PR)***

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

The Flavors of the Sea Sunday evening themed buffet at The Terrace Restaurant is one of the island's best-kept gastronomic secrets.

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

Enjoy Mari Bar's Saipan Golden Hour special's 25% discount on all food and drinks, including alcohol from 5pm to 9pm every Sunday.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-006-23
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 08, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $50.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN (IFB-006-23)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 11, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO DATE: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

ROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-013-23
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 06, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 01, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS **(IFB-013-23)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 06, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Date: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP23-GOV-42300099

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST OCTOBER 6, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the **Department of Corrections Surveillance System Replacement** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be made available digitally at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan and online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids) beginning **Friday, September 8, 2023**. **A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. ChST, at the Department of Corrections.**

Questions regarding this RFP may be sumitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:00 PM ChST, Wednesday, September 27, 2023**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective proposers.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, Friday, October 6, 2023.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria: (1) Qualifications and experience on similar projects – 30%; (2) Past performance with CNMI projects – 30%; and (3) Cost – 40%.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP23-GOV-42300097

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST OCTOBER 6, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HVAC REPLACEMENT SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the **Department of Corrections HVAC Replacement** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be made available digitally at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan and online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids) beginning **Friday, September 8, 2023. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. ChST, at the Department of Corrections.**

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/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Nation

Federal judge again declares DACA illegal

HOUSTON (AP)—While a federal judge on Wednesday declared illegal a revised version of a federal policy that prevents the deportation of hundreds of thousands of immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, he declined to order an immediate end to the program and the protections it offers to recipients.

» Issue likely to be decided by Supreme Court

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen agreed with Texas and eight other states suing to stop the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program. The judge's ruling was ultimately expected to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, sending the program's fate before the high court for a third time.

"While sympathetic to the predicament of DACA recipients and their families, this Court has expressed its concerns about the legality of the program for some time," Hanen wrote in his 40-page ruling. "The solution for these deficiencies lies with the legislature, not the executive or judicial branches. Congress, for any number of reasons, has decided not to pass DACA-like legislation ... The Executive Branch cannot usurp the power bestowed on Congress by the Constitution—even to fill a void."

Hanen's order extended the current injunction that had been in place against DACA, which barred the government from approving any new applications, but left the program intact for existing recipients during the ongoing legal review.

Hanen also declined a request by the states to order the program's end within two years. Hanen said his order does not require the federal government to take any actions against DACA recipients, who are known as "Dreamers."

Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, or MALDEF, which is representing DACA recipients in the lawsuit, said it will ultimately be up to higher courts, including the Supreme Court, to rule on DACA's legality and whether Texas proved it had been harmed by the program.

"Judge Hanen has consistently erred in resolving both of these issues, and today's ruling is more of the same flawed analysis. We look forward to continuing to defend the lawful and much-needed DACA program on review in higher courts," Saenz said.

The Biden administration criticized the judge's ruling.

"We are deeply disappointed in today's DACA ruling from the District Court in Southern Texas," press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement Wednesday night. "... As we have long maintained, we disagree with the District Court's conclusion that DACA is unlawful, and will continue to defend this critical policy from legal challenges. While we do so, consistent with the court's order, DHS will continue to process renewals for current DACA recipients and DHS (the Department of Homeland Security) may continue to accept DACA applications."

The Texas Attorney General's Office, which represented the states in the lawsuit, and the U.S. Department of Justice, which represented the federal government, didn't immediately return emails or calls seeking comment.

The states have argued the Obama administration didn't have the authority to first create the program in 2012 because it circumvented Congress.

In 2021, Hanen had declared the program illegal, ruling it had not been subject to public notice and comment periods required under the federal Administrative Procedures Act.

The Biden administration tried to satisfy Hanen's concerns with a new version of DACA that took effect in October 2022 and was subject to public comments as part of a formal rule-making process.

But Hanen, who was appointed by then-President George W. Bush in 2002, ruled the updated version of DACA was still illegal as the Biden administration's new version was essentially the same as the old version, started under the Obama administration. Hanen had previously said DACA was unconstitutional.

Hanen also had previously ruled the states had standing to file their lawsuit because they had been harmed by the program.

The states have claimed they incur hundreds of millions of dollars in health care, education and other costs when immigrants are allowed to remain in the country illegally. The states that sued are Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina, West Virginia, Kansas and Mississippi.

Those defending the program—the federal government, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the state of New Jersey—had argued the states failed to present evidence that any of the costs they allege they have incurred have been tied to DACA recipients. They also argued Congress has given the Department of Homeland Security the legal authority to set immigration enforcement policies.

AP

People rally outside the Supreme Court over President Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), at the Supreme Court in Washington, Nov. 12, 2019.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
We, the family of our beloved †Ethan Franklin H. Babauta, wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and profound thank you to all for being with us during this difficult time of bereavement. We appreciate all the generous outpour of love, time and support in bringing our beloved †Ethan Franklin to his final resting place.
We especially wish to extend our sincerest appreciation to the following individuals and groups:
In Saipan:
Techa Nan O'cha Magofna, Commonwealth Ports Authority Police, Department of Public Safety, Borja Funeral, Father Melvin Avila, Deacon Tony Yarobwemal, Edessa Youth Choir, St. Jude Altar Servers, CNMI Government Officials and Agencies, Saipan Tribune and the Distorted Miniz Car Club.
In Hawaii:
E.K. Fernandez Ohana, Ballard Funeral Home, Our military and civilian ohana and friends in Hawaii and the U.S. for their contributions.
We are wholeheartedly thanking all family and friends who attended daily masses and attended the celebration of †Ethan Franklin's new life.
†Ethan Franklin will be missed dearly by all who knew him as a son, a brother, a nephew, a cousin, a grandson, an uncle, a friend, a god-father but most especially a loved one.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase from
Myrna Lynn H. Babauta (Devon Joel) & Family
Jonathan C. Delos Santos & Family

White House bares strategy for impeachment inquiry

WASHINGTON (AP)—On Capitol Hill, House Republicans were all-in Wednesday on House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's announcement of an impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden. Down Pennsylvania Avenue, the president was holding forth at the White House on the importance of bipartisanship in fighting cancer—and ignoring shouted questions about impeachment.

It was a clear sign of Biden's broader reelection pitch: the idea that if he simply does his job and governs, Americans will see the results and reward him with four more years. Never mind all that pesky impeachment talk across town.

"Look, I've got a job to do," the president said later, away from the cameras, to a roomful of supporters at a reelection fundraiser in Virginia in his most extensive comments yet about the inquiry. "I get up every day—not a joke—not focusing on impeachment. I've got a job to do. I've got to deal with the issues that affect the American people every single solitary day."

The we're-all-better-than-this attitude is central to the White House strategy for countering impeachment proceedings being launched ahead of the 2024 election by Republicans who are trying to link Biden to the business dealings of his son, Hunter. This as the GOP tries to shift attention away from Donald Trump's own legal troubles.

The White House has been preparing for a potential impeachment essentially since Republicans won control of the House in the November elections. It has roughly two dozen staff members in the counsel's office detailed to the matter. The new chief counsel, Ed Siskel, is a former Obama administration attorney who helped craft the response to the congressional investigations into the 2012 Benghazi attack that killed four Americans, including the U.S. ambassador.

The White House impeachment playbook so far has been: Dismiss. Compartmentalize. Scold.

That is, shrug off the charges as baseless, stay focused on policy, leave the impeachment question to the lawyers and chide those who give too much credence to it all.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre had dismissed the inquiry as a "political stunt" and deflected questions about the details to the White House counsel's office. House Republicans? "We think they should work with us on legitimate issues — things that actually matter to the American people," she said.

Still, the impeachment inquiry is a tricky matter for Biden because the thing is so personal, focused on his relationship with his 53-year-old son, a source of pain and pride whose questionable choices have landed the president here.

The White House has said that Joe Biden was not involved in his son's business affairs. And so far, despite months of investigations, Republicans have unearthed no significant evidence of wrongdoing by the elder Biden, who spoke often to his son and as vice president did stop by a business dinner with his son's associates. Hunter Biden is not a public figure.

Hunter Biden's attorneys were on message, too.

World

Searchers race to recover bodies in Libyan city

DERNA, Libya (AP)—Search teams combed streets, wrecked buildings and even the sea Wednesday to look for bodies in a coastal Libyan city where the collapse of two dams unleashed a massive flash flood that killed at least 5,100 people.

» Where massive flash flood killed at least 5,100

The Mediterranean city of Derna has struggled to get help after Sunday night's deluge washed away most access roads. Aid workers who managed to reach the city described devastation in its center, with thousands still missing and tens of thousands left homeless.

"Bodies are everywhere, inside houses, in the streets, at sea. Wherever you go, you find dead men, women, and children," Emad al-Falah, an aid worker from Benghazi, said over the phone from Derna. "Entire families were lost."

Mediterranean storm Daniel caused deadly flooding Sunday in many towns of eastern Libya, but the worst-hit was Derna. Two dams in the mountains above the city collapsed, sending floodwaters roaring down the Wadi Derna river and through the city center, sweeping away entire city blocks.

As much as a quarter of the city has disappeared, emergency officials said.

Waves rose as high as 7 meters (23 feet), Yann Fridez, head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Libya, told broadcaster France24.

Teacher Mohammed Derna said he, his family and neighbors rushed to the roof of their apartment building, stunned at the volume of water rushing by. It reached the second story of many buildings, he said. They watched people below, including women and children being washed away.

"They were screaming, 'Help, help,'" he said over the phone from a field hospital in Derna. "It was like a Hollywood horror movie."

Derna lies on a narrow coastal plain, under steep mountains. The only two usable roads from the south take a winding route through the mountains.

Collapsed bridges over the river split the city center, further hampering movement.

Search teams went through shattered apartment buildings and retrieved the dead floating offshore in the Mediterranean Sea, al-Falah said.

Ossama Ali, a spokesman for an ambulance center in eastern Libya, said at least 5,100 deaths were recorded in Derna, along with around 100 others elsewhere in eastern Libya. More than 7,000 people in the city were injured.

A spokesman for the eastern Libyan interior ministry put the death tally in Derna at more than 5,300, according to the state-run news agency.

The number of deaths was likely to increase since teams are still collecting bodies, Ali said. At least 9,000 people are missing, but that number could drop as communications are restored.

At least 30,000 people in Derna were displaced by the flooding, the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration said.

The storm hit other areas in eastern Libya, including the towns of Bayda, Susa and Marj. Rescuers retrieved at least 150 bodies Wednesday from the sea off Bayda, bringing the death tally in the town to about 200, Ali said.

The startling devastation pointed to the storm's intensity, but also Libya's vulnerability. The country is divided by rival governments, one in the east, the other in the west, and the result has been neglect of infrastructure in many areas.

Ahmed Abdalla, a survivor who joined the search-and-rescue effort, said they were putting bodies in the yard of a hospital before taking them for burial in mass graves at Derna's sole intact cemetery.

"The situation is indescribable. Entire families dead in this disaster. Some were washed away to the sea," Abdalla said by phone.

Derna is 250 kilometers (150 miles) east of Benghazi, where international aid started to arrive on Tuesday.

Ukrainian attack damages 2 ships, injures 24 people, sets port on fire in Crimea

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A Ukrainian attack on a strategic shipyard early Wednesday in Russian-annexed Crimea wounded 24 people, damaged two ships undergoing repairs and caused a fire at the facility, Russian authorities reported.

The attack in the port city of Sevastopol, which serves as the main base for Russia's Black Sea Fleet, took place as Moscow offensives killed at least three civilians and injured 14 across Ukraine, the president's office said.

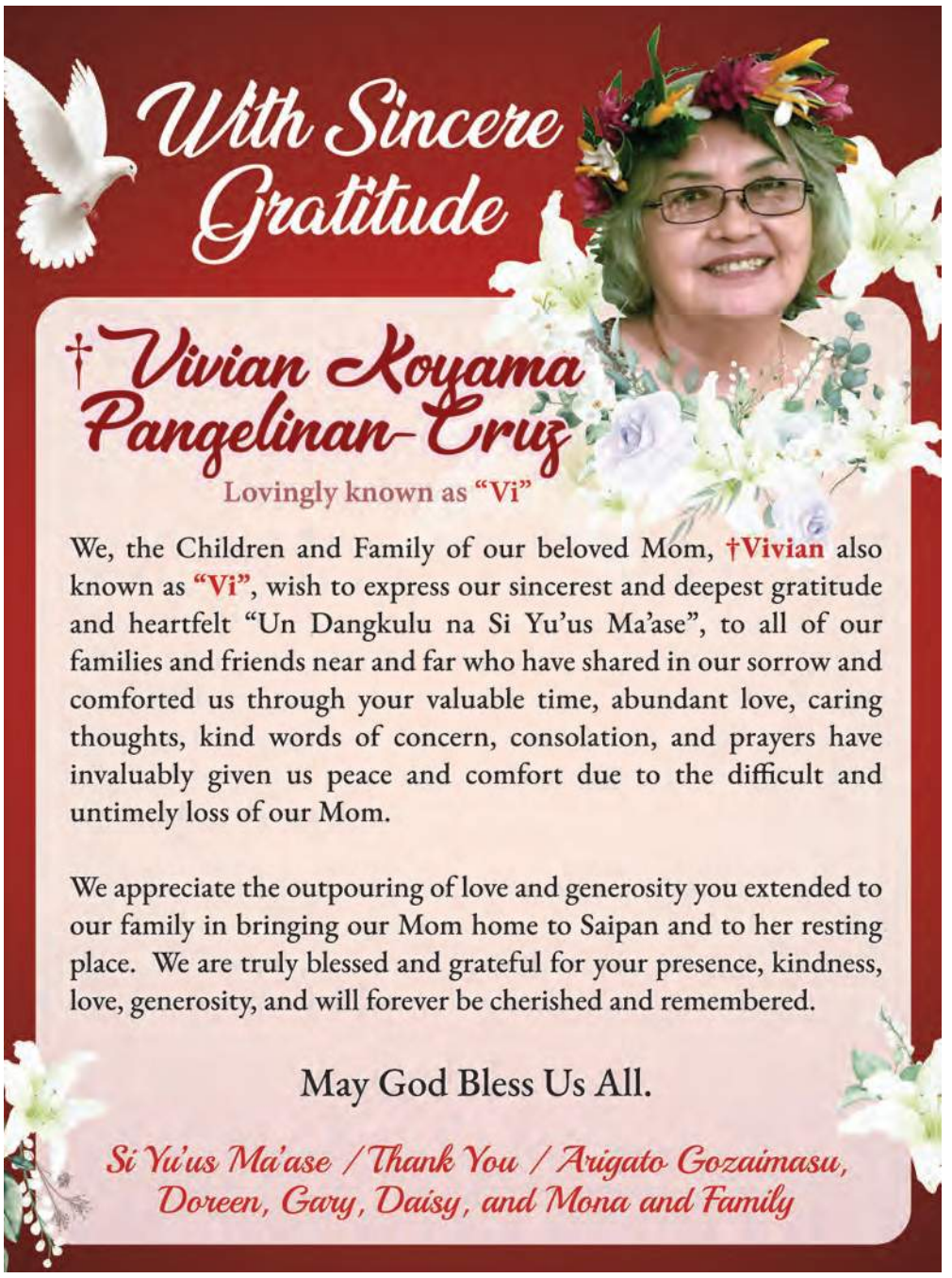
A pre-dawn drone onslaught in southern Ukraine's Odesa region damaged port and civilian infrastructure in the region's Izmail district, about 350 kilometers (220 miles) across the Black Sea from Sevastopol, and wounded seven people, three seriously, Gov. Oleh Kiper said.

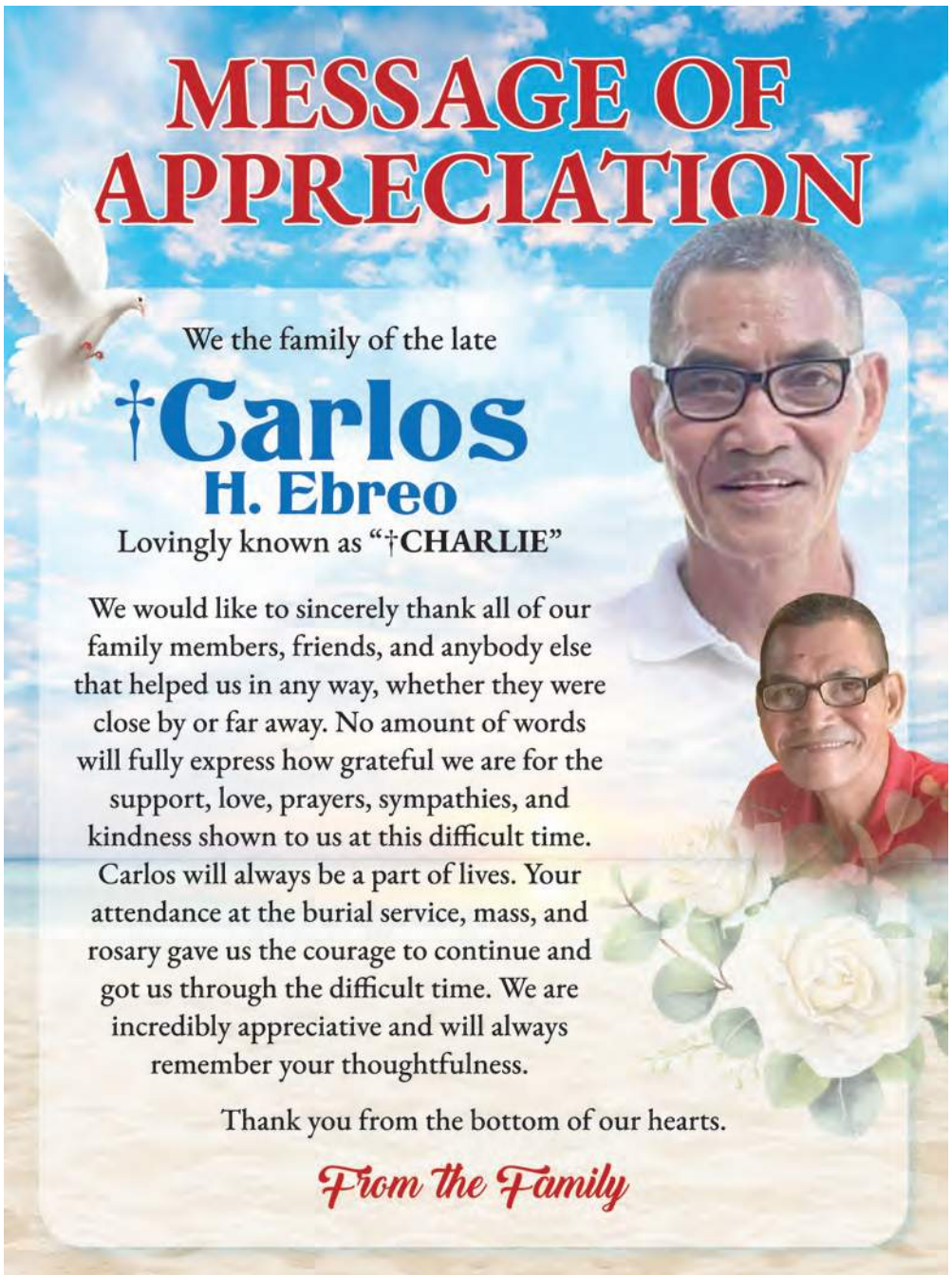
Russian attacks on residential areas in 10 cities and villages in the Donetsk region killed three people and wounded three. Fighting in the Zaporizhzhia region injured one resident in Orikhiv, while shelling in southern Kherson damaged homes and a kindergarten, the government said.

The skirmishes occurred as Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a summit that the U.S. has warned could lead to a deal to supply arms to Moscow's depleted troops in Ukraine. Kim offered his full support for Russia's "just" fight and said the two reached an agreement to deepen their "strategic and tactical cooperation and solidarity in the struggle to defend sovereign rights and security."

The Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014 in an act that most of the world considered illegal, has been a frequent target since Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of Ukraine more than 18 months ago.

Last month, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vowed to do all he could to bring back Crimea and has urged international allies to support the effort.


With Sincere Gratitude
†Vivian Koyama Pangelinan-Cruz
Lovingly known as "Vi"
We, the Children and Family of our beloved Mom, †Vivian also known as "Vi", wish to express our sincerest and deepest gratitude and heartfelt "Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase", to all of our families and friends near and far who have shared in our sorrow and comforted us through your valuable time, abundant love, caring thoughts, kind words of concern, consolation, and prayers have invaluably given us peace and comfort due to the difficult and untimely loss of our Mom.
We appreciate the outpouring of love and generosity you extended to our family in bringing our Mom home to Saipan and to her resting place. We are truly blessed and grateful for your presence, kindness, love, generosity, and will forever be cherished and remembered.
May God Bless Us All.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase / Thank You / Arigato Gozaimasu,
Doreen, Gary, Daisy, and Mona and Family


MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
We the family of the late
†Carlos H. Ebreo
Lovingly known as "†CHARLIE"
We would like to sincerely thank all of our family members, friends, and anybody else that helped us in any way, whether they were close by or far away. No amount of words will fully express how grateful we are for the support, love, prayers, sympathies, and kindness shown to us at this difficult time. Carlos will always be a part of lives. Your attendance at the burial service, mass, and rosary gave us the courage to continue and got us through the difficult time. We are incredibly appreciative and will always remember your thoughtfulness.
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.
From the Family

Life & Style

Taylor Swift and her 'Anti-Hero' top MTV VMAs

By MARIA SHERMAN
AP Music Writer

Taylor Swift took home the top prize at the 2023 MTV Video Music Awards for her "Anti-Hero" music video on a night full of surprises.

"This is unbelievable. The fact that this is a fan-voted award means so much to me," Swift said in her acceptance speech. "I can't believe it was a year ago that I announced the 'Midnights' album."

The show, held at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey, was Swift's from nearly the beginning. The night's first presenters were none other than NSYNC, who reunited to hand the best pop video award to Swift.

In coordinating suits, Justin Timberlake, Joey Fatone, Lance Bass, Chris Kirkpatrick and JC Chasez shared the stage with Swift. Bass handed her a friendship bracelet, just as fans do at the superstar's shows. "You're pop personified," she told the group.

AP

Taylor Swift accepts the award for video of the year for "Anti-Hero" during the MTV Video Music Awards on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

The night's top nominee later returned to the stage to pick up the song of the year trophy for "Anti-Hero" and also the best direction award.

Swift took home nine of the 11 awards she was up for, including artist of the year in a category made up entirely of women nominees for the first time in VMA history.

Her "Karma (Remix)" collaborator, Ice Spice, won best new artist. "Oh my God, this is so cool," she said. "I just want to thank my munchkins."

New music was abundant throughout the show. Host Nicki Minaj performed her latest single, the dreamy "Last Time I Saw You" before jumping into a brand-new tease of a fiery new trap cut from her highly-anticipated "Pink Friday 2" album.

"I ain't nothing like you," she raps, "I'm on a whole other level."

As much as Swift dominated, the VMAs centered on music's global power. K-pop boy band Tomorrow X Together and Brazilian superstar Anitta premiered their new collaboration, the glossy retro-pop of "Back for More."

Another K-pop group, Stray Kids, brought "S-Class" to the stage, regional Mexicana star Peso Pluma performed "Lady Gaga" and reggaetonera Karol G delivered "Oki Doki" and "Tá OK (remix),"

Comedian Tiffany Haddish presented the award for "Best Afrobeats" in the category's inaugural year, given to Rema and Selena Gomez for their massive hit "Calm Down."

"Africa in the house!" Rema started his acceptance speech. "Shout out to Fela (Kuti) who started Afrobeats in the first place…and I want to give a big shout out to the next generation of Afrobeats."

Gomez stood a few feet from the microphone but jumped in when Rema asked her to, telling the crowd: "I want to send all of my love to Nigeria, thank you."

Largest US newspaper chain hiring Taylor Swift, Beyoncé writers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—This week the United States' biggest newspaper chain posted to its site two unusual job listings: a Taylor Swift reporter and a Beyoncé Knowles-Carter reporter.

Gannett, which owns more than 200 daily papers, will employ these new hires through USA Today and The Tennessean, the company's Nashville-based newspaper. The chain is looking for "modern storytellers" adept in print, audio and visual journalism, said Michael Anastasi, the Tennessean's editor and Gannett's vice president for local news.

"Seeing both the facts and the fury, the Taylor Swift reporter will identify why the pop star's influence only expands, what her fanbase stands for in pop culture, and the effect she has across the music and business worlds," the company said in its job description.

Similarly, the company wants a journalist who can capture Beyoncé Knowles-Carter's effect on society and the industries in which she operates.

Anastasi said the Tennessean already has a three-person music team and "I put our sophisticated coverage up against anybody." Gannett is always looking for opportunities to make itself essential for paying customers, he said.

Critics of the new roles cited layoffs at Gannett, where the workforce has shrunk 47% in the last three years due to layoffs and attrition, according to the NewsGuild. At some newspapers, the union said the headcount has fallen by as much as 90%. Last year alone, Gannett cut about 6% of its roughly 3,440-person U.S. media division.

Some journalists said that while hiring these massively popular artist-specific roles reflect their influence in pop culture, they do fail to invest in local journalism at a company known for its local dailies.

Olivia Rodrigo announces arena world tour

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Olivia Rodrigo is going on tour, and she's bringing the next generation of pop talent—as well as a beloved '90s alt-rock band—with her.

In 2024, Rodrigo will be joined by funk-and-soul up-and-comer Remi Wolf, dark pop princess Chappell Roan, song of the summer contender PinkPantheress and perhaps most surprisingly, the Breeders (fronted by the Pixies' Kim Deal), across a 57-date run.

The tour announcement Wednesday follows the release last week of Rodrigo's highly anticipated and critically celebrated sophomore album, "GUTS." It also comes a day after she performed at the MTV Video Music Awards.

The GUTS World Tour, Rodrigo's first-ever arena tour, kicks off on Feb. 23, in Palm Springs, California, at the Acrisure Arena. It will hit most major cities in North America and Europe before returning stateside and closing out with two nights at the Kia Forum in Los Angeles County that August.

AP

Olivia Rodrigo performs during the MTV Video Music Awards on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

The singer will also sell a limited number of $20 (or the local currency equivalent, plus taxes and applicable fees) Silver Star Tickets in an attempt to make attending her concert more affordable. Those must be purchased in pairs, with a limit of two per purchase, and will allot seats located next to one another.

Wife returns to marriage after eight years apart

DEAR ABBY: I've been married for 34 years. During most of them, I was unfaithful. I never felt like I was truly married because my husband never gave me the time of day, but I liked my marital status because, I guess, we were companions. As soon as my kids married and the nest was empty, I left. I didn't feel I needed to stay and be unhappy, so I moved out. Why I didn't divorce him during those eight years is beyond me.

We are now back together, and I don't know why. We're not physically attracted to each other, and he is manipulative, selfish and sarcastic. Why, Abby, am I afraid to move on from this? I hate it when we're alone at home. I'd rather spend the day with my grandchildren. I didn't miss him at all when I was away, but he called me often and I felt obligated and guilty. What should I do?

SEARCHING FOR HAPPY IN ARIZONA

DEAR SEARCHING: If you really want to find "happy," the place to start would be in the office of a licensed psychotherapist. Once you figure out why you were willing to settle for marriage to a manipulative, selfish, sarcastic man to whom you are not attracted, you will figure out what your next move should be. From where I sit, it should be in the direction of the office of a lawyer who can help you untangle yourself from your unhealthy marriage once and for all.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I work for a department within law enforcement that has been on a hiring spree for the past few months due to retirements. One of our new hires is an obnoxious know-it-all. When we are talking policy, she constantly corrects us, usually incorrectly. When we try to explain to her about her being wrong, she twists whatever we're talking about to make her sound right, or says we're being rude.

It's not just policy stuff. Everyday conversation can be frustrating. I made a comment about a geographical location, and she proceeded to argue about it. She then Googled it and realized I was, in fact, correct. I don't want to argue with someone daily who thinks she's always right. I've tried to let it go or say, "Yes, OK, you're right," but it is hard sometimes. My boss is no help. He doesn't deal with her daily, so he doesn't see it and says we all "just need to get along." How do I professionally approach this situation?

OVER HER IN OREGON

DEAR OVER HER: If this new hire's personality problem continues, it could poison the entire department. Ask your co-workers if they have experienced what you have with the woman and, if they have, how they feel about it. If they agree that her need to be right even when she's wrong presents a problem, approach your boss AS A GROUP to discuss it. That way, it will be chalked up as a personnel problem rather than a personal one.

■■■

TO THOSE WHO CELEBRATE ROSH HASHANA: At sundown tonight, the Jewish New Year begins. During this time of solemn introspection, I wish my Jewish readers, "L'shana tova tikatevu"—may you be inscribed in the Book of Life and have a good year.—LOVE, ABBY

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

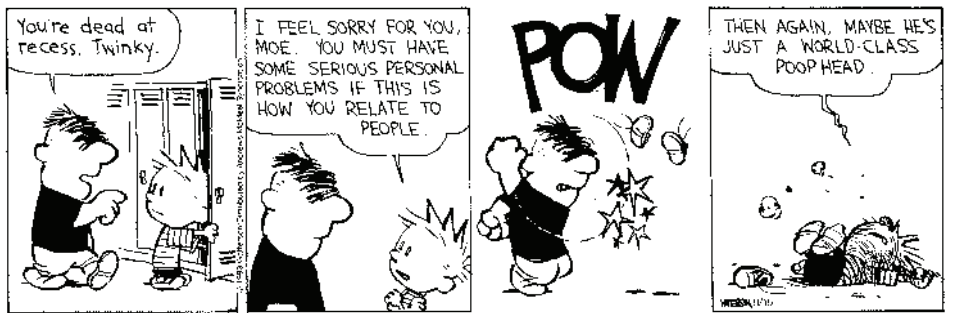
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


You're dead at recess, Twinky.
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, MOE. YOU MUST HAVE SOME SERIOUS PERSONAL PROBLEMS IF THIS IS HOW YOU RELATE TO PEOPLE.
POW
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE HE'S JUST A WORLD-CLASS POOP HEAD.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

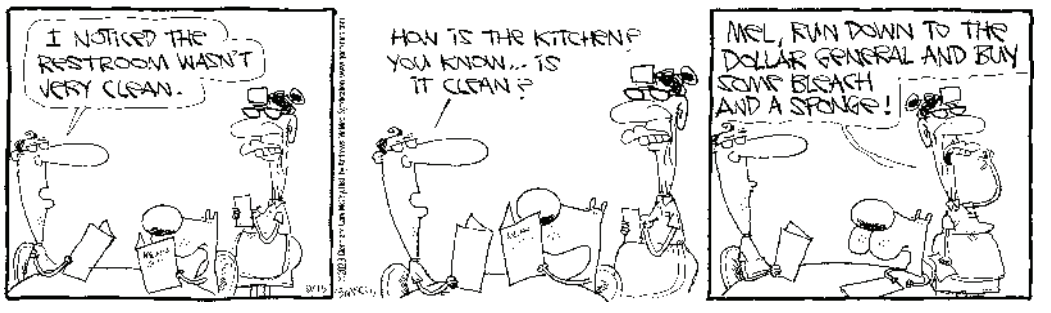
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'M PROUD OF YOU, DAD.
YEAH?
YEAH. YOU SAID YOU WERE GONNA GET IN SHAPE, AND YOU'VE REALLY GOTTEN AFTER IT.
THIS WHOLE STICK-TO-IT-IVENESS IS SO... SO...
...SO NOT YOU.
THANK YOU, DEAR. BACKHAND NOTED AND ACCEPTED.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I NOTICED THE RESTROOM WASN'T VERY CLEAN.
HOW IS THE KITCHEN? YOU KNOW... IS IT CLEAN?
MEL, RUN DOWN TO THE DOLLAR GENERAL AND BUY SOME BLEACH AND A SPONGE!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pool unit
4 — Diego
7 "Mortal Kombat" agent
12 Comedian Gasteyer
13 Author Umberto
14 City-related
15 Bankbook abbr.
16 Survival drama series for which Lee Jung-jae won an Emmy
18 Aussie hopper
19 Quests
20 "Auld Lang —"
22 British verb ending
23 Casual shirt
27 Diner order
29 Like Zorro or Batman
31 Yarns
34 Stickum
35 Needing change
37 Cardinal cap letters
38 Lion's share
39 — Dhabi
41 Creche trio
45 Door handles
47 Aries
48 Kin of three-card monte
52 UFO fliers
53 Equine
54 StubHub buys, slangily
55 "The Bells" writer
56 Diminish
57 Messy room
58 Illustrations

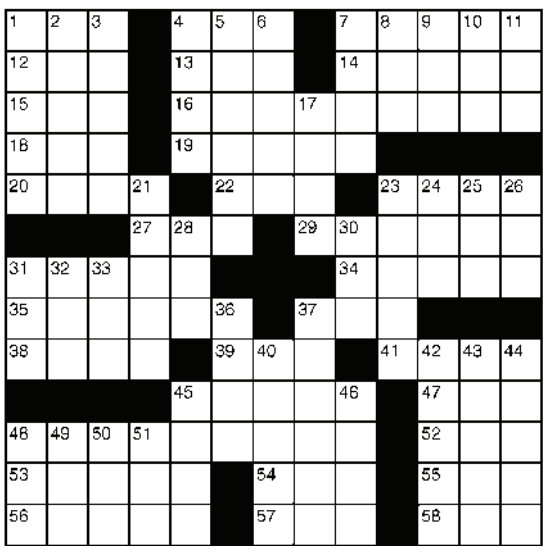
DOWN

1 Hide-aways
2 Pester
3 "Cry, the Beloved Country" author Alan
4 Meeting, in slang
5 Find not guilty
6 Subjects, usually
7 Beer, slangily
8 URL ending
9 Cagers' gp.
10 Orange tuber
11 Chemical suffix
17 Thing
21 Critic Roger
23 Sacred song
24 Approves
25 Allow
26 Praise in verse
28 Baton Rouge sch.
30 Suitable
31 Country singer McGraw
32 Year in Madrid
33 Opener at Vegas?
36 Tart flavor
37 Hand in
40 Marina sights
42 Venezuelan corn patty
43 Croc's kin
44 "No more for me, thanks"
45 Swiss artist Paul
46 Hot
48 — Na Na
49 Mischief
50 Notable time
51 U.S. military vessel

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	C	T		S	A	P	S		T	A	L	L
I	R	E		T	H	E	N		A	R	O	O
T	C	D	L	A	S	S	O		N	C	A	R
		T	A	S		O	R	I	G	A	M	I
O	K	A	P	I	S		L	N	L			
M	A	L		S	A	L		C	L	U	M	P
A	N	K	A		N	U	I		O	P	E	R
R	C	S	I	N		V	A	T		L	I	C
			M	I	D		R	E	D	I	N	K
A	P	P	L	A	U	D		R	E			
H	A	S	E		N	A	R	H	A	I	E	D
O	T	I	S		S	I	N	O		C	R	A
N	E	S	S		I	S	A	R		D	R	Y

Yesterday's answer 9-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Prince Harry, 39; Tom Hardy, 46; Tommy Lee Jones, 77; Oliver Stone, 77.

Happy Birthday: Look around and adjust your lifestyle to suit your needs. The change will become the pick-me-up that clears your vision and puts zest back into your life. Trust your intelligence and wherewithal to guide you justly and benevolently. Opportunities are within reach. It's up to you to utilize what's already in place. Embrace new beginnings, life and love. Your numbers are 6, 14, 22, 29, 31, 34, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Sign up for something you love to do and include people you love being around. A social setting will offer a platform to express your thoughts and desires. An image adjustment will lead to compliments and give your ego a boost. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You know how to play the game, so don't hesitate to participate. Push forward with a smile and the confidence of a winner. Leave nothing to chance, and plan your actions to accommodate and execute your skills with precision and intention. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Choose to participate in social events or activities requiring agility, physical skill and a competitive attitude. Refuse to let what others say affect your ability to get things done. Rise above any situation that is confusing. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Keep an open mind and a calm demeanor. Pay attention to what others do and mimic what you can replicate to suit your needs. A positive change at home will improve your life and your relationships with friends and family. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Tone down, simplify and stick to what you know and do best. Taking on too much will lead to unwanted change. Concentrate on strengthening your position and your physical strength. Say no to extravagance, unreliable offers and manipulative people. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Express your thoughts and desires, and discuss your plans with someone you want by your side. Explore the possibilities that can lead to a rich and fulfilling life. Take ownership of your existence and manufacture the happiness you crave. Optimism will turn into an opportunity. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Pay attention, note what everyone around you contributes and develop a team of allies you can count on to respond spontaneously. Share what's necessary, but keep secret matters to yourself. Romance is in the stars and will boost your ego. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Increase awareness by sharing your thoughts. The response you receive will lead to a plan that addresses a cause that concerns you. Being bold will attract attention and support. Step outside your comfort zone and make a difference. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Actions are necessary, but don't expect everything to run smoothly. Opposition is apparent, and being misled is likely if you believe everything you hear. Do your due diligence before you try to set the record straight. Put your best foot forward in a cordial manner. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Anger won't solve problems, but positive action will point you in the right direction. An unexpected change at home will turn out better than anticipated and make a difference in what you can do and provide for yourself and your loved ones. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Accept the inevitable and devise a plan to compensate for any setback. Use your strengths to get others on board. A strong front will discourage anyone from interfering with your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Think outside the box and add some flavor to the conversation. Your attitude and unique point of view will make you a forerunner when trying to convince others to see things your way. Use your power of persuasion to get your way. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are kindhearted, precise and opportunity-driven. You are original and passionate.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						5	4	6
1						9		
			8		3	1		
	8	4			5	6		
9				3				
			9				8	4
		8	3		9			
4	9			1			6	3
	1				7		5	

Difficulty: ★★★★ 9/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	8	3	5	4	9	1	7	6
7	4	9	2	1	6	5	8	3
5	1	6	7	8	3	9	4	2
3	6	5	8	9	1	7	2	4
1	9	7	4	3	2	8	6	5
4	2	8	6	5	7	3	1	9
9	7	4	1	6	5	2	3	8
6	3	2	9	7	8	4	5	1
8	5	1	3	2	4	6	9	7

Difficulty: ★★★ 9/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SINÉAD O'CONNOR (1966-2023) Solution: 6 letters

A	U	H	S	E	Y	T	N	A	I	C	I	S	U	M
T	C	E	M	P	I	R	E	E	N	I	M	A	F	A
A	O	T	D	O	N	A	L	A	H	W	L	L	A	G
Q	M	N	I	J	A	C	K	I	E	O	O	K	A	D
A	P	O	O	V	O	K	T	I	N	G	N	B	R	A
D	A	I	P	M	I	S	V	D	U	I	R	N	B	D
A	R	L	E	S	I	S	O	I	D	I	Ⓗ	V	O	A
S	E	D	T	L	Y	N	T	N	E	O	Ⓞ	D	C	V
A	S	E	E	R	I	A	A	L	J	B	Ⓜ	A	P	I
D	S	K	R	C	R	M	M	T	T	U	Ⓔ	W	R	T
A	M	A	K	E	H	S	I	R	I	O	S	A	I	T
H	B	J	V	O	C	A	L	S	I	O	H	R	N	T
U	D	E	S	A	E	L	E	R	N	U	N	D	C	O
H	T	H	E	O	L	O	G	Y	O	R	T	S	E	U
S	H	A	N	E	I	R	A	M	N	I	S	I	O	R

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Activist, Awards, Barry, Cobra, Compares, Demo, Dónal, Empire, Famine, Gabriel, Golf, Guitar, Hits, Home, Irish, IRMA, Jackie, Jake, John, Lion, London, Magda Davitt, Mandinka, Marie, Musician, Nick, Nominations, NVDA, Peter, Prince, Red Hot, Roisin, Sets, Shane, Shuhada Sadaqat, Steve, Theology, Tour, Tracks, Troy, Unreleased, View, Vocals, Yeshua

Yesterday's Answer: Ganache

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION** #1 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Braves clinch NL East title with 4-1 win over Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Atlanta Braves clinched their sixth straight NL East title, beating the Philadelphia Phillies 4-1 on Wednesday night behind Spencer Strider's major league-leading 17th win and Austin Riley's two-run homer.

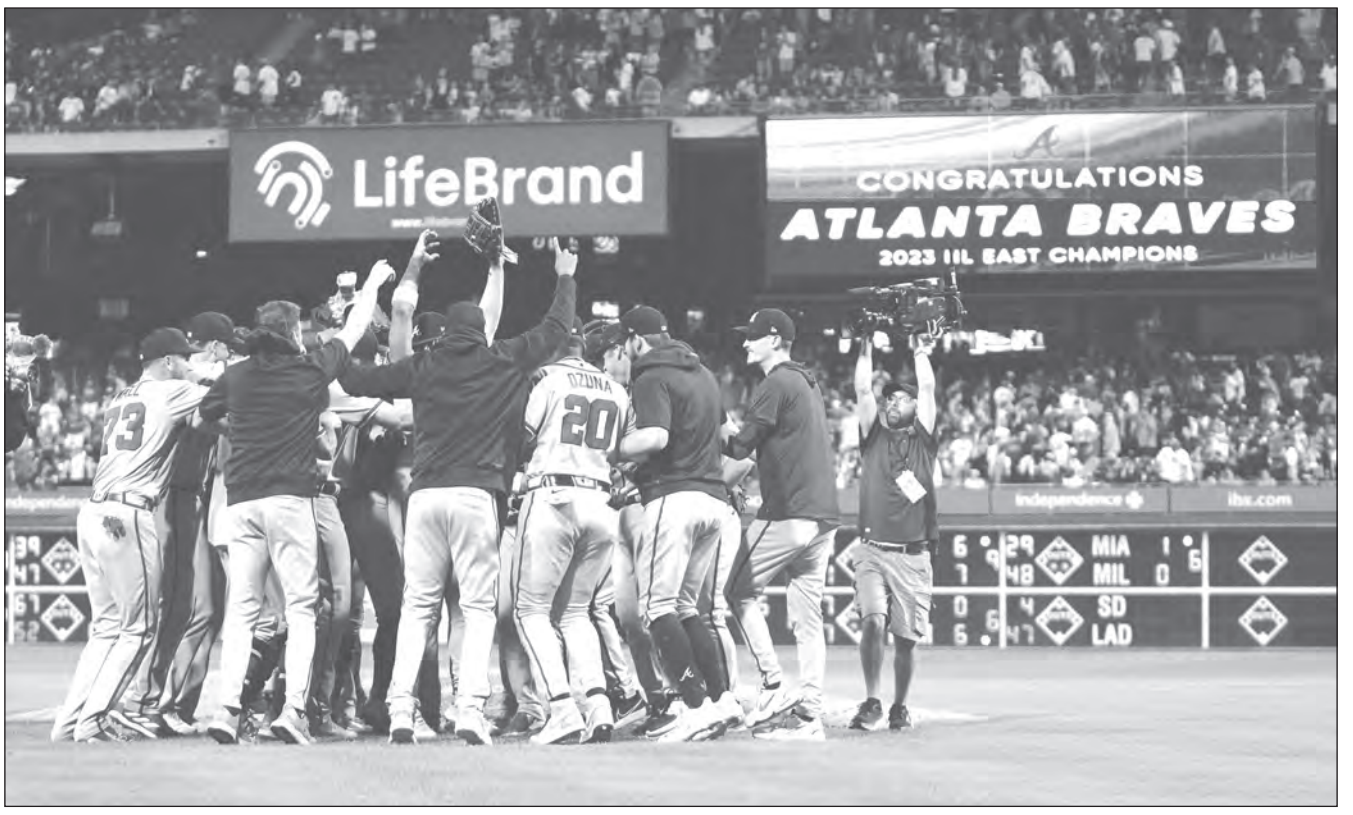
Kirby Yates struck out Brandon Marsh to end the game and the players danced in a mob near the mound as Phillies fans booed them off the field. Yates earned his fifth save.

Atlanta took special satisfaction in clinching on the same Citizens Bank Park field where the Phillies eliminated them last October in the NL Division Series. The Phillies won that series 3-1—just as Atlanta won this four-game set.

The Phillies lead the NL wild card and the teams could face each other in October.

Cristopher Sánchez (2-4) struck out a career-best 10 in 7 1/3 innings.

Strider (17-5) won for the fifth time in six starts, allowing one run and four hits in seven innings. Strider struck out nine to boost his MLB-best total to 259. He also gave the bullpen some needed rest after a rough first three games in Philly.



AP

Atlanta Braves players and coaches celebrate after clinching their sixth consecutive NL East title by defeating the Philadelphia Phillies in a baseball game, Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023, in Philadelphia.

CARDINALS 1, ORIOLES 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Richie Palacios homered, rookie Drew Rom and four relievers combined on a three-hitter and St. Louis beat Baltimore to trim the Orioles' lead in the AL East to two games.

Gunnar Henderson's two-out triple off Ryan Helsley in the ninth inning gave the Orioles a chance to pull even, but Aaron Hicks popped out.

In a game dominated by strong pitching and tight defense, Palacios provided the lone run with a solo shot over the right-field scoreboard in the fourth inning off Kyle Gibson (14-9). It was his fourth homer of the season and third in two nights.

Making his fifth major league start since being traded from Baltimore to the Cardinals on Aug. 1, Rom (1-2) allowed two hits over 5 1/3 innings and left with a 1-0 lead.

RAYS 5, TWINS 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Randy Arozarena hit a tiebreaking home run with two outs in the ninth inning, helping Tampa Bay beat Minnesota heading into a weekend showdown with AL East leader Baltimore.

Arozarena sent a 448-foot drive to the third deck above left field on a 3-2 sweeper from Griffin Jax (6-10), who leads the staff in losses.

Colin Poche walked pinch hitter Jordan Luplow with one out in the ninth and pinch-runner Andrew Stevenson stole second base, but Robert Stephenson recorded his first save for the Rays by striking out pinch hitter Christian Vázquez to end the game.

Kevin Kelly (5-2) pitched two perfect innings in relief for the victory.

PADRES 6, DODGERS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blake Snell scattered one hit over six scoreless innings, Juan Soto and Luis Campusano homered and San Diego won its first series against their NL West rivals in two years.

Snell (14-9), a favorite for the NL Cy Young, allowed just a single to Mookie Betts leading off the game and struck out eight. The right-hander, who leads the majors with 93 walks, issued only one.

Betts got on base twice—stealing second each time —only to be left stranded. He was the Dodgers' only base runner through seven innings.

Making his third start of the season, rookie Ryan Pepiot (2-1) gave up four runs and six hits in six innings. The right-hander struck out five and walked none.

MARLINS 2, BREWERS 0

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Braxton Garrett pitched six innings of four-hit ball and Miami beat NL Central-leading Milwaukee after dropping the first two games of the four-game series.

Miami (75-71) moved within one-half game of Cincinnati and Arizona for the final NL wild-card spot.

Garrett (9-6) struck out seven and walked two. The Marlins turned two double plays behind the 26-year-old left-hander, who didn't allow a runner past second base.

Three relievers completed a seven-hitter for Miami, with Tanner Scott working the ninth for his eighth save.

ASTROS 6, ATHLETICS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—Hunter Brown and Houston held Oakland hitless until Ryan Noda's one-out single in the ninth inning, sending the Athletics to their first consecutive 100-loss seasons since the 1960s.

Brown pitched six innings, Rafael Montero, Héctor Neris and Bryan Abreu followed with perfect innings as AL West-leading Houston retired 11 straight batters.

Yordan Alvarez hit a three-run homer and Alex Bregman and Kyle Tucker had solo shots for the Astros, who maintained a one-game lead over second place Texas, with Seattle is another half-game back. Tucker's home run was the 100th of his big league career.

Brown (11-11) struck out seven in five innings, walked two and hit a batter, throwing 78 pitches. He had allowed 11 runs over his last two starts spanning 8 1/3 innings.

Paul Blackburn (4-5) allowed four runs, four hits and three walks in three innings, dropping to 0-5 with a 9.74 ERA in eight appearances against the Astros.

RANGERS 10, BLUE JAYS 0

TORONTO (AP)—Jordan Montgomery and two relievers combined on a five-hitter, Nathaniel Lowe and Mitch Garver each hit three-run home runs and Texas shut out Toronto to move 1 1/2 games ahead of the slumping Blue Jays in the AL wild-card race.

Robbie Grossman added a two-run homer as the Rangers (81-64) won their fifth straight. It's the fourth time this season that Texas has won at least five in a row, matching Baltimore and Boston for most in the AL.

Lowe hit a three-run home run off left-hander Yusei Kikuchi (9-6) in the fourth. Grossman connected off Kikuchi in the fifth. Garver homered off Chad Green in the ninth.

Montgomery (9-11) allowed four hits in seven innings. Martín Pérez worked the eighth and Ian Kennedy finished.

Kikuchi allowed six runs and five hits in five innings. He gave up two home runs for the first time since June 4 against the Mets.

MARINERS 3, ANGELS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Julio Rodríguez hit a run-scoring double and later scored the tiebreaking run after drawing an intentional walk, leading the playoff-contending Seattle over Los Angeles.

Luis Castillo (13-7) added six strong innings for the Mariners, who rebounded from Monday's extra-innings loss to take two of three from Los Angeles. He allowed two runs and three hits in a 104-pitch outing. He struck out eight and walked three.

Andrés Muñoz worked the ninth for his 13th save.

José Suarez (1-3) took the loss for the Angels, who used seven pitchers in a bullpen day.

ROCKIES 7, CUBS 3

DENVER (AP)—Kris Bryant went deep for the second straight game, one of four home runs by Colorado, and the Rockies earned their first series win in a month.

Nolan Jones and Elehuris Montero each hit a two-run homer in a four-run fifth, and Ryan McMahon homered and finished with three hits for the Rockies, who took two of three from the playoff-contending Cubs.

Ty Blach (3-1) gave up nine hits in five innings but held the Cubs in check, allowing three runs. Gavin Hollowell worked two scoreless innings and Tyler Kinley, the fourth Colorado reliever, got the last five outs for his third save.

Cubs starter Jameson Taillon (7-10) came in 2-0 with a 1.29 ERA in two career starts against Colorado, including a complete game at Coors Field on Aug. 7, 2018, when he was with Pittsburgh. He allowed just one hit through three innings before Colorado scored a run in the fourth and took the lead in the fifth.

METS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Arizona ace Zac Gallen was hit hard in a damaging loss for the Diamondbacks as Pete Alonso and Mark Vientos powered New York to victory.

Joey Lucchesi (3-0) carried a shutout into the eighth inning. He was charged with an unearned run and five hits over seven-plus innings in his return from Triple-A Syracuse. He walked three and struck out two.

Arizona dropped into a tie for the third National League wild card with Cincinnati.

Gallen (15-8), who was coming off the first nine-inning shutout of his career, was tagged for seven runs —six earned — and eight hits over five-plus innings.

GIANTS 6, GUARDIANS 5, 10 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—LaMonte Wade Jr. hit a game-winning sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 10th inning and San Francisco rallied past Cleveland in the rubber match of a three-game series.

Xzavion Curry (3-4) walked a pair to load the bases with no outs. Wade hit a fly ball to left and Patrick Bailey beat a strong throw from left fielder Steven Kwan, sliding under Bo Naylor's tag at the plate. The call was upheld upon video review.

J.D. Davis tied the game in the eighth with a towering three-run homer to left.

Camilo Doval (6-4) pitched 1 1/3 scoreless innings to earn his first win since Aug. 20.

PIRATES 7, NATIONALS 6

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Bryan Reynolds hit his 21st homer and singled twice to help Pittsburgh beat Washington.

Josh Palacios and Liover Pegeuro added two hits and an RBI apiece for the Pirates, who jumped on Jackson Rutledge (0-1) early in his major league debut—then held on late.

Pittsburgh rookie Quinn Priester (3-2), back up for his second stint in the majors after six rocky starts earlier in the season, worked four-plus innings to earn the victory. David Bednar endured a bumpy ninth, allowing a run and loading the bases with one out before getting C.J. Abrams to strike out and Lane Thomas to fly out to end it.

Dominic Smith hit his ninth home run for Washington. Rookie catcher Drew Millas hit his first major league homer for the Nationals.

REDS 4, TIGERS 3

DETROIT (AP)—TJ Friedl hit a two-run triple in the second inning and seven relievers combined on five shutout innings as Cincinnati beat Detroit.

The Reds bullpen has pitched 11 scoreless innings as the Reds have won the first two games of the series. The Reds (76-71) are tied with Arizona for the final NL wild card.

Reds starter Connor Phillips allowed three runs in four innings before the bullpen took over. Daniel Duarte (2-0) pitched the eighth to get the win and Alexis Díaz, who got the win in Tuesday's 10-inning victory, pitched the ninth for his 36th save.

Eduardo Rodriguez (11-8) allowed four runs on four hits and five walks in 5 1/3 innings.

ROYALS 7, WHITE SOX 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Michael Massey homered for the second straight game, Salvador Perez had three hits and two RBIs and Kansas City won its second straight against Chicago.

Four pitchers combined to limit Chicago to one run on five hits while striking out nine.

Rookie Steven Cruz opened with two scoreless, two-hit innings. Fellow rookie Alec Marsh (1-8) followed, allowing one run on three hits in 4 1/3 innings for his first major league victory. James McArthur got five outs, and Tucker Davidson pitched a 1-2-3 ninth.

Chicago starter Mike Clevinger (7-8) allowed two runs—on Massey's drive in the second—and six hits in six innings. The right-hander struck out seven and didn't give up a walk.

Nick Loftin drove in two runs, with a single and double, after entering as a pinch-hitter in the seventh.

Police: Rockets' Kevin Porter Jr. fractured girlfriend's vertebra

NEW YORK (AP)—Houston Rockets guard Kevin Porter Jr.'s alleged attack on his girlfriend in a New York City hotel room left the woman with a fractured neck vertebra and a deep cut above her right eye, prosecutors revealed at his arraignment Tuesday.

Porter, 23, pleaded not guilty to felony assault and strangulation charges in connection with the incident early Monday at the Millennium Hilton near the United Nations in Manhattan. Prosecutors said he didn't stop until his girlfriend, former WNBA player Kysre Gondrezick, ran out into the hallway covered in blood.

The NBA star, who had been in police custody since his arrest around 6:45 a.m. Monday, was released after posting bail, which was set at $75,000 cash or $100,000 bond. He was also ordered to stay away from Gondrezick.

"This is a serious domestic violence case," Assistant Manhattan District Attorney Mirah Curzer said in court.

According to Curzer, Porter has a history of abusing Gondrezick, including an incident in which he rammed his car into hers.

Porter is due back in court in Manhattan on Oct. 16. The Rockets are scheduled to play a preseason game that day in San Antonio, with their regular season tipping off about two weeks later.

A message seeking comment was left with Porter's lawyer.

In a statement Monday, the Rockets said: "We are in the process of gathering information surrounding the matter involving Kevin Porter Jr. We have no further comment at this time."

According to a criminal complaint, Gondrezick told police that Porter punched her repeatedly in the face with a closed fist, causing an inches-long gash above the right eye, bruising and substantial pain to her face.

Gondrezick, 26, said Porter also wrapped his hands around her neck and strangled her, causing her to have difficulty breathing, redness and bruising to her neck, and loss of motion to her left arm.

Hospital testing showed that Gondrezick sustained a fracture to one of the vertebrae in her neck, the criminal complaint said.

Porter and Gondrezick started dating in February 2022, according to an anniversary message she posted on X, the social media site formerly known as Twitter.

Gondrezick, the fourth pick in the 2021 WNBA draft, played one season for the Indiana Fever and is currently a free agent. She is also an actress and model.

A message was left with Gondrezick's management company.

Porter has played four seasons in the NBA—a tenure marked by on-court prowess and off-court problems.

Last year, Porter averaged 19.2 points, 5.3 rebounds and 5.7 assists per game, earning a lucrative four-year extension with Houston, where he had landed after wearing out his welcome in Cleveland.

In November 2020, while playing for the Cavaliers, Porter was arrested after police said they found a loaded handgun and marijuana in his car after a single-vehicle crash. Porter claimed he didn't know the gun was there, and his charges were eventually dismissed.

Porter, a 2019 first-round draft pick from the University of Southern California, was traded from Cleveland to Houston a few months later after he reportedly blew up at the Cavaliers' general manager after finding out that his locker had been moved to make room for a newly acquired player.

In April 2021, the NBA fined Porter $50,000 for violating the league's COVID-19 health and safety rules by visiting a Miami strip club. In January 2022, the Rockets suspended Porter for a game after then-coach Stephen Silas said the player had a "spirited debate" and "lost his temper" at halftime.

AP

Houston Rockets guard Kevin Porter Jr. dribbles during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets, March 7, 2023, in Houston.

Griffin anticipates having 'great partnership' with Antetokounmpo

SAUKVILLE, Wis. (AP)—New Milwaukee coach Adrian Griffin says he is looking forward to forming a great partnership with Giannis Antetokounmpo, although the two-time league MVP plans to hold off on signing a contract extension with the team.

Antetokounmpo told The New York Times last month that he wanted to see how committed the Bucks are toward winning another championship before deciding whether to sign a long-term deal to stay in Milwaukee. The two-time MVP also noted the Bucks' recent coaching change and said he wanted to "see the dynamics" of how everything works with the new staff before making a decision.

"Giannis and I are on the same page," Griffin said Monday during a golf event benefiting the Milwaukee Bucks Foundation. "We have a great relationship so far. He's been pleasant to get to know. He wants to win, and I want to win. It's that simple. I respect him. I respect what he's accomplished in this league. We're here together to win. I have no problem with that. I think it's a great partnership. We're going to lead the team together. When he leads, the others will follow. I think it's great."

Antetokounmpo's contract runs through the 2024-25 season, with a player option for 2025-26.

Griffin also said Antetokounmpo and forward Khris Middleton are expected to be ready for the start of training camp Oct. 3 after both underwent knee surgeries during the offseason.

"That's the plan," Griffin said. "They've been working their butts off in the gym every day and just grinding. I think the most important thing is to just take it day by day. That's what they're doing. It's been terrific."

Antetokounmpo led the Bucks to their first NBA title in half a century in 2021 but haven't advanced beyond the second round of the playoffs since. The Bucks owned the NBA's best regular-season record last season but lost 4-1 to the Miami Heat in the first round of the playoffs.

After that stunning playoff loss, the Bucks fired Mike Budenholzer as coach and hired Griffin, who had spent the last five seasons as a Toronto Raptors assistant coach. Griffin said Monday he understands the expectations that come with this job, and he and Antetokounmpo have similar goals.

"We're aligned," Griffin said. "We're here to win. The one thing I talked to my team and our staff about is just embracing expectations. We have a really good roster. Instead of running from it, we want to embrace it."

NBA takes steps to try to ensure its star players appear in more games

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA took steps Wednesday to try to ensure that its star players appear in more games, particularly nationally televised matchups and the in-season tournament that is being added this year.

The league's board of governors approved a new player participation policy that will take effect for this upcoming season, replacing the player resting policy that was implemented prior to the 2017-18 season. The new rules focus primarily on star players—someone who has been an All-Star or on the All-NBA team in any of the prior three seasons. There are 50 players who fit into the star category.

"It's a shared view by everyone in the league, it's not just coming from the league office," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "I think whether it's our teams, our players association, individual players, I think there's an acknowledgement across the league that we need to return to that principle that this is an 82-game league. ... I think there's a statement of principle that if you're a healthy player in this league, the expectation is that you're going to play."

Increased player participation is a top priority for Silver as the league negotiates a new media rights deal. The current deal ends in 2025.

Teams will have to manage their rosters to ensure only one star player is unavailable per game at the most.

"What we've tried to do as the league office is work through all the different issues recognizing the genuine concern from the fans and of course the media that's paying for the opportunity to broadcast those games," Silver said.

The league will have the ability to penalize teams that violate the policy by fining them $100,000 for the first infraction and $250,000 for the second. Each successive violation will increase by $1 million.

The NBA also wants teams to maintain a balance between the number of one-game absences a star player has at home and on the road, as well as refrain from any long-term shutdowns where a star player stops playing games.

The league will allow teams to submit written requests in advance for older players for back-to-back games. This is for a small pool of stars who are either 35 or older at the start of the season or have played in over 34,000 regular-season minutes or 1,000 games in their careers. LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Stephen Curry all fit in that category.

"The Players Association was very much a part of it," Silver said of discussions on the new policy. "We had extensive discussions with them and then with individual groups of players, particularly the veterans in the league, about how they thought we should be approaching it."

Teams will be able to make other requests to have players miss games that include personal reasons, player's prior injury history and end-of-season flexibility.

Fans cheer German basketball team's return home after winning '23 FIBA World Cup title

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Fans cheered Germany's basketball team on its return home Tuesday after winning the World Cup for the first time.

The team, led by tournament MVP Dennis Schröder of the Toronto Raptors, went direct from a long-haul flight from the Philippines to an event Tuesday morning at a sponsor's headquarters in Frankfurt. A group of fans, including many children, and German politicians gathered to greet the champions.

"I hope that we can get a lot of children and older people, move them to play basketball," Schröder told the crowd as "We Are The Champions" played.

In a country where soccer is the most popular sport, Germany's World Cup campaign initially attracted little attention until the 113-111 upset win over the United States in the semifinals on Thursday.

That unexpected victory brought momentum at home ahead of beating Serbia 83-77 in the final on Sunday. Even then, though, the team's historic success had to compete for attention with the firing of the men's national soccer team coach, which was announced in the final minutes of the gold-medal game.

The next step for Germany is next year's Paris Olympics.

"This group of guys are the best 12 players, the best team, Germany's ever seen," coach Gordie Herbert said, "and they're even better people."

NFL players union renews call for grass fields after Rodgers' injury

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Skin scraped down to bloody patches. Sore bodies stinging in post-game showers. Aching shoulders, backs, hips, knees and ankles.

Add in season-ending injuries like four-time MVP Aaron Rodgers tearing his left Achilles tendon in his debut with the New York Jets on Monday night and Buffalo pass rusher Von Miller tearing his ACL, an incident that he blames on artificial turf.

Yes, NFL players prefer playing on natural grass. It's why the NFL Players Association called on the league Wednesday to switch all fields to grass in what executive director Lloyd Howell said was "the easiest decision the NFL can make."

It's a matter of career preservation.

"I mean the NFL is already 'Not For Long,' right?" Carolina linebacker Shaq Thompson said. "It sucks it had to happen that way. ... Hopefully they run with it. Hopefully they blow it up and shout it out loud and everybody puts it on social media, takes a stand and does something."

The players union repeated its call for grass less than 48 hours after Rodgers' injury.

AP

New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8) is helped off the field after getting injured during the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills, Monday, Sept. 11, 2023, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Howell said players know the change would cost money but argue the bigger cost is losing the NFL's best players to "unnecessary injuries."

Thompson has criticized Carolina owner David Tepper for replacing grass with an artificial surface at the Panthers' stadium in 2021—in part to host Charlotte's new Major League Soccer team.

When the 2026 World Cup is held in North America, all 11 U.S. venues will be at NFL stadiums.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Wednesday on ESPN he is meeting with the head of FIFA next week about the World Cup. Plans currently call for host stadiums to use grass mixed with artificial surface. Lambeau Field has featured Kentucky bluegrass sod weaved in with synthetic fibers since 2018.

"Something that we're working to try to see is that a better surface for us?" Goodell said. "Because you have to look at climate too. This is not just about is the field going to be good in September? Is it also going to be good in December and January?"

The current collective bargaining agreement uses science to measure injuries, with the NFL and the union using the same data. Goodell noted Rodgers had one of two Achilles tendon tears in the NFL's first week—the other, suffered by Baltimore's J.K. Dobbins, occurred on grass.

"That is where we make decisions, on the basis of science, not because I see an injury that I don't like," Goodell said.

The union has wanted all grass fields for years. In April, the union released studies from 2012-22 arguing a significant increase in non-contact injuries on artificial surfaces vs. grass. The NFL has defended artificial turf, pointing to 2021 when the numbers for injuries on both surfaces were close.

Rodgers argued for grass all over the league last November while with the Green Bay Packers. He said some artificial surfaces are softer, creating more wobble when the foot hits the ground. Grass allows cleats to pull away, leaving a divot.

New York Giants wide receiver Sterling Shepard tore his Achilles tendon late in 2021 at MetLife Stadium, then he tore an ACL last season on the same field. A new artificial surface was installed this year, and Shepard said it might be a little softer but "turf is turf."

Jets coach Robert Saleh said Tuesday that he didn't see the surface as being an issue in Rodgers' injury. The 39-year-old quarterback got hurt when he was taken down by Bills defender Leonard Floyd.

"If it was a non-contact injury, then I think that would be something to discuss, obviously," Saleh said. "But ... I think that was trauma-induced. I do know the players prefer grass and there is a lot invested in those young men."

Miller joined a campaign lobbying for grass at all NFL stadiums after his injury. Cincinnati quarterback Joe Burrow said a league standard for artificial surfaces would help. Two-time NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes, who plays on grass in Kansas City, said it's simple.

"The numbers say that grass is healthier for the players, and I want to play on the surface that keeps me healthy," Mahomes said.

Green Bay left tackle David Bakhtiari, who was busy on social media after Rodgers was hurt, said he knows the NFL is a business. Owners can wait to demand something in return during the next contract negotiations, and artificial surfaces help them make money hosting other events.

"That's the bottom dollar, bottom line. Follow the money. Simple as that," Bakhtiari said.

The Tennessee Titans will debut the NFL's newest artificial surface Sunday in their home opener against the Los Angeles Chargers after trying, and struggling, to grow grass in Nashville for 24 seasons.

Their fake turf is anchored by shredded coconut husks and cork, not rubber pellets. The Titans cited NFL data putting Nissan Stadium among the league leaders for games where players suffered lower-body injuries.

Nissan also hosts the annual CMA Fan Fest each June. Taylor Swift, Ed Sheeran and George Strait performed there this summer. The stadium is home to the annual Music City Bowl each December.

Titans coach Mike Vrabel, who played 14 NFL seasons in stadiums that featured original artificial turf, said technology has improved and he likes what Tennessee installed.

"I understand that we need to do everything that we can to keep our players safe and understand that sometimes injuries are unavoidable based on whatever you're doing and playing professional sports," Vrabel said.

Virginia nose tackle Olasunkonmi Agunloye was carted off the field with torn patellar tendons on both knees after slipping as he celebrated recovering a fumbled punt in a college game against Tennessee at Nissan Stadium.

Keeping stars on the field keeps money flowing in the NFL, so Bakhtiari called grass a matter of smart business.

"You have enough great players not out there, the quality of the game and the sport goes down," Bakhtiari said. "No one wants that. Like I said before, we already play a violent enough game. Don't add to it."

Analysis: Payton's excoriation of predecessor looks even worse after bungled Broncos debut

DENVER (AP)—If you're going to excoriate your predecessor over the mess you were hired to clean up, it's best to outperform the guy you replaced.

Sean Payton didn't deliver enough enhancements in his Denver debut Sunday to justify calling out Nathaniel Hackett like he did in the summer.

During a passionate defense of quarterback Russell Wilson, who's coming off the worst season of his career, Payton accused Hackett and his staff in Denver of doing "one of the worst coaching jobs in the history of the NFL" in 2022.

The potshot would have hit different had it come during Payton's time as a Fox football analyst during his year's sabbatical from coaching.

Hackett, now the Jets' offensive coordinator, owned up to his failures as a first-time head coach in Denver but suggested Payton broke an unwritten code among coaches to not publicly criticize one another.

Payton's stinging critique of Hackett's performance in a USA Today article is sure to provide some extra juice to the Jets' Week 5 visit to Denver next month, even with Aaron Rodgers' left Achilles tendon snapping just four snaps into his Jets debut Monday night, taking some luster off the league's biggest storyline this season.

With his criticism of Hackett, Payton also put himself on the hook to deliver a better product in Denver—and fast.

While Wilson looked a lot more like his vintage Seattle self while running Payton's offense, the Broncos' 17-16 loss at home to the Raiders on Sunday was the exact score by which Hackett lost his head coaching debut at Seattle last season.

Hackett infamously settled for a 64-yard field goal attempt by Brandon McManus, a head-scratching decision that backfired and sent the Broncos on a season-long tailspin that cost Hackett his job after 15 games.

Payton didn't even get the chance to try a last-second field goal Sunday because his defense, which produced zero sacks and committed a half dozen penalties, made Jimmy Garoppolo look like Tom Brady in the fourth quarter.

A Denver offense that averaged 11 plays and more than 6 minutes per drive produced its only three-and-out after falling behind and never got the ball back.

The Broncos' special teams was worst of all, with a botched onside kick to start the game, a crucial holding call negating a big early return and a dismal debut from Wil Lutz, the reliable kicker Payton had in New Orleans whom he acquired from the Saints two week ago for a late-round draft pick.

Lutz missed his first extra point as a Bronco and was also wide right on a 55-yard field goal attempt, leaving four points on the board in a one-point loss on the same day Brandon McManus, whom Payton curiously cut loose in May, made all five of his kicks for the Jaguars' in their win at Indianapolis.

Another decision, to trade tight end Albert Okwuegbunam to the Eagles on cut-down day, drew renewed scrutiny Sunday when Greg Dulcich pulled a hamstring on the opening drive of the second half and didn't return.

Combined with the absence of top receiver Jerry Jeudy (hamstring), Dulcich's departure left the Broncos without any downfield threats and Wilson was forced to dink and dunk his way through a 52-yard second half.

The Broncos did average 2.7 points per possession, a great figure if you're looking at the usual 10 to 12 drives teams get in a typical game.

Denver had just six drives Sunday—six!—and the Broncos ran but three offensive plays over the final 8:54 of the game, including a third-down catch 3 yards shy of the sticks. That three-and-out was sandwiched around Garoppolo's 6-yard TD strike to Jakobi Meyers and his 8-yard scramble on third-and-7 that iced the Raiders' seventh straight win over their rivals.

A lack of pressure (zero sacks) and a lack of discipline (10 penalties) also doomed Denver, especially safety Kareem Jackson's 15-yarder for a helmet hit on Meyers on Las Vegas' final drive.

Despite all that, there were certainly signs of progress under Payton, including this: the fans didn't have to resort to counting down the play clock as they mockingly did in Hackett's home debut last year when he had so much trouble getting the plays in on time. General manger George Paton brought Jerry Rosburg out of retirement the next day to take over the game management duties and then promoted him to interim head coach following Hackett's Dec. 26 ouster at 4-11.

HMS, DMS draw 1st blood in boys MS hoops start

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

LEIGH GASES

Dan Dan Middle School's varsity basketball player Caleb Cruz, center, goes for a layup through a couple of Mount Carmel School defenders during the start of the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Hopwod Middle School's varsity basketball player Jequinn Lizama, left, tries to maneuver toward the paint as he's guarded by a Cha Cha Ocean View Middle School defender during the start of the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Hopwood Middle School Hilitais' and Dan Dan Middle School Tottots' varsity basketball teams drew first blood in the start of the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Hilitais took on Cha-Cha Ocean View Middle School Lancherus and ran them down to a 29-13 game.

Both teams were equally matched as both teams were still getting their footing in the first few minutes. The Lancherus' Liam Wilson was a one-man show as he scored the majority of his team's points. Wilson was fouled early on for two free points, then followed it up with a 3-pointer. His teammate Payton Pangelinan added two markers for six points in the first half.

However, the Hilitais overpowered the Lancherus with their clean passes and more accurate shots at the basket. Jay Ruwayngeg and Jequinn Lizama were an unstoppable duo in the first half as they scored a combined 14 points. They led, 16-6, at the end of the first half after another field goal by Zuriel Abejo.

By the second half, the Hilitais knew who to cut off from the ball. Wilson was well guarded and only made 2 more points. Meanwhile, the Hilitais went on to score 13 more points, while the Lancherus added just 4 more after Wilson.

The Tottos varsity team made light work of Mount Carmel School's junior varsity team after holding them to a lopsided 74-5 final.

This game was not evenly matched as the Knights were held to just 5 points throughout the game. Xin Lei Song scored 2 points, while Elijah Dela Cruz went deep for a 3-point shot.

The Tottots' Dane Tibayan went on to score 36 points, followed by 18 markers of Algelle Surima. Five other Tottots combined for 20 points.

In other results, Fransisco M. Sablan Middle School trounced HMS JV, 43-5, and Agape Christian School blanked Saipan Community School, 36-0.

CRUZ

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blue belt in 2019.

The 30-year-old said of the competition, "It was a tough tournament in a new weight class and new competitors. I'm proud of this achievement because of the challenges I overcame and because I have been training diligently for a world title."

"I want to send a huge thank you to my sponsors who are very involved in my ability to compete: Lone Fox Bistro & Lounge, Guam Nutrition & Fitness Coach, and Project Row, my family and friends for the support, and my teammates in San Diego."

Her next competition is the No-Gi Pan American Championship in Texas at the end of the month.

At age 24, Cruz started jiu-jitsu and she currently trains under the tutelage of Baret Yoshida from Team Baret Submissions at The Training Center, San Diego. She's been training with the same team for six years.

Cruz graduated high school in 2010 and college at the Northern Marianas College in 2013. She left for San Diego, California in 2015 and still resides there today.

TANIA

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With her goals this year, she said "I hope to continue to progress and set new PRs in my events this season, we'll see!"

As a student-athlete herself, she said "I definitely recommend going to college as a student-athlete. It keeps you motivated, teaches you time management skills, enables you to make lifelong friendships with your teammates, and helps you stay fit."

When asked how she balances work, school, and sports, she said it's "tough, but doable."

"I like keeping myself busy so I find it challenging but fun. Make sure you prioritize the important stuff first, like finishing your homework and submitting that assignment. After all, the term 'student-athlete' puts the student before the athlete, so you want to make sure to always prioritize academics before athletics," she said.

Tan ran four seasons with Fordham University in New York while getting her undergraduate bachelor's degree, while breaking her PRs.

She finished 11th in the 10,000m at the 2023 Atlantic 10 Championship Meet with a mark of 37:10.89 and 18th in the 5,000m with a time of 18:27.62.

She also set CNMI records in the indoor 3,000m and 5,000m and the outdoor 5,000m and 10,000m during her senior season in 2023.

Ready Mix thrashes No Choice, 14-3

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Ready Mix thrashed No Choice, 14-3, in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dan Dan Softball Field.

No Choice drew first blood with a run scored by Trino They, but Ready Mix was ready to get the party going in their at-bat. Ready Mix scored three runs off Ban Ayuyu's 3-run homer, and another run scored by Luis Arriola for a 4-2 lead.

Ready Mix pitcher J.P. Lizama went on to retire No Choice in order in the second inning. He went on to shut them down again in the third, and again in the fourth.

At this point, Ready Mix had scored two runs in the second and third, and they went on to add five more in the fourth. Marty Taisacan and Ben Flores rounded the bases, then Arriola hit a 3-RBI home run to make it 11-1.

No Choice could only score two more runs and after another 3-run shot by Ready Mix's Flores, the game ended on accord of the run-mercy rule, for a 14-3 final.

TuTuRamZ 15, Dat's It 14

Dat's It gave TuTuRamZ a run for their money and lost by just one run, 14-15.

Dat's It led by three runs at the end of the sixth inning, 12-9, but in the last inning, TuTuRamZ rallied and scored six to steal the win.

Although Kaipo Dikito of Dat's It hit a 2-run homer in the seventh inning to lead, 14-9, they should've brought in more runs because of TuTuRamZ' comeback in the bottom of the inning.

Two runs scored to start TuTuRamZ' rally, then a 3-run home run by Tony Techur tied up the ball game, 14-14. With one more out, a go-ahead pinch-hit homer by PJ Misa stole the win from Dat's It, 15-14.

Mamaaw 22, No Excuse 17

Mamaaw outscored No Excuse, 22-17, thanks to their 11-run fifth inning.

It was an evenly matched battle as both teams took turns pummeling home runs in every inning. With the game at 13-11 in favor of No Excuse, Mamaaw's bats exploded in the fifth inning to pull ahead into the lead.

It was the back-to-back-to-back home runs from the top of Mamaaw's lineup—Kodic Lifoifoi, Giovanni Mira, Rosek Norita, and Ze Lifoifoi that brought the heat. Another 2-run home run was made by Dung Maratita before the third out was made, but by then, it was 22-13, Mamaaw.

No Excuse would go on to score only four more runs in the sixth inning and were retired in order in the seventh and were handed the loss.

LEIGH GASES

No Choice pitcher Jeff Isaac is seen in this file photo during one of their games in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League at the Dan Dan Softball Field.

SWIMMERS

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freestyle relay to surpass the 4:12.95 marked that the former, Taiyu Akimaru, Jinie Thompson, and Juhn Tenorio posted in the world championships held in Budapest, Hungary last year. Batallones and company were named Team of the Month for July for their record-breaking swim in Fukuoka.

Meanwhile, Gimed won the NMSA/Crowne Plaza Male Student Athlete of the Month for claiming a gold medal in the Philippine National Weightlifting Championship held in Bacolod City, Philippines last July 15 and 16.

Gimed joined the 73kg weight class of the youth division contest and recorded a field-best of 70kg in snatch and 87kg in clean & jerk for a total of 157kg. Only Gimed and the NMI swimmers made it to the July honor list, as there were no nominees for the Male and Female Athlete of the Month awards for July.

The 13-year-old student is the sixth weightlifter to break into the NMSA monthly honor roll. Gimed's fellow student-athlete Jaden Andrew was the February top student-athlete, while Annie Gail Manuel took the female-student athlete award in March. In the adults category, Leonardo Apelo (February), Antonette Labausa (March), and Leowell Cristobal (June) are the other weightlifters listed on the honor roll.

Completing the select group are tennis' Si Woo Lee (March) and athletics' Dean Aldan (April), Cody Shimizu (May), and Theodore Rodgers (June) for the male student; badminton's Lina Tsukagoshi (April) and athletics' Kaithlyn Chavez (May) and Casey Cruz (June) for the female student; tennis' Colin Ramsey (March); cycling's Joel Buco (April), and basketball's Douglas Schmidt (May) for the male athlete; and athletics' Tania Tan (February) and Erin Frink (June) and badminton's Janelle Pangilinan (April) for the female athlete.

In the team category, joining the CNMI Naitonal Swimming Team on the monthly honor roll are Marianas High School Girls Outrigger Team (February), Saipan International School Girls Elementary School Track Team (April), and the Marianas Outrigger Club Women's Team (June).

Nominations for the top athletes and team for August are now open. All monthly awardees qualify for the coveted Male and Female Student Athlete of the Year, Male and Female Athlete of the Year, and Team of the Year awards. ***(PR)***

Braves clinch NL East title with 4-1 win over Phillies.

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Sports

HMS, DMS draw 1st blood in boys MS hoops start.

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Cruz strikes gold in World Master IBJJF champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Despite being a newcomer in the brown belt division in the sport of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, NMI born-and-raised Marilyn Cruz swept the competition for the gold medal in the 2023 World Master IBJJF Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada, which was held from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2.

Cruz was promoted to brown belt just four months ago and has already made waves in the light feather-weight, brown belt, 118-lb division after she won all four matches in the competition via submissions.

Second place was Diosana Frigo, who Cruz took down via the knee-bar. Tied for third place after Cruz took them down by ankle-lock and bow and arrow choke were La'Catherine Transleau and Kaisa Yli-Paunu.

The Kagman High School alumnae said that she had the most matches in her division because she was new and had lower rankings.

This is Cruz's third world title as a brown belt; she won her second title in 2022 as a purple belt and her first world title as a

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LEIGH GASES
The CNMI's Marilyn Cruz, second left, won gold in the 2023 World Master IBJJF Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada held from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2.

Tania in master's program at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Tania Tan is making waves in her new cross country team as a graduate transfer to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Tan, in her two-year masters communications program, decided to use her extra year of eligibility in the NCAA to compete for UH's women's cross country and track & field team.

In her debut as a member of UH Rainbow Wahine women's cross country team, Tan took sixth place in the season opening Big Wave Invitational with a time of 19:42.80.

Tan will join six others to compete in the 6K 24 Mountain Regional Preview this Monday, Sept. 18, in Reno, Nevada.

She said, "The competition format is about the same as back at Fordham [University]. But because we are in Hawai'i, we need to fly to the West Coast for almost every meet/race. That means getting on a six-hour flight minimum every other weekend just to compete."

See TANIA on Page 23

UH ATHLETICS
CNMI's Tania Tan is seen in her first cross country meet as a University of Hawai'i Rainbow Wahine women's cross country runner.

Swimmers, weightlifter make July honor roll

Swimmers Maria Batallones, Shoko Litulumar, Isaiah Aleksenko, and Jakey Deleon Guerrero and weightlifter Aiden Gimed made it to the Northern Marianas Sports Association's July honor roll, as they were recognized for their notable feats in their respective competitions.

Batallones was named NMSA/Crowne Plaza Female Student Athlete of the Month after her record-breaking swim at the 2023 World Aquatics World Championships held in Fukuoka, Japan from July 14 to 30. The 15-year-old raced in the 50m breaststroke event and clocked in at 35.96 seconds, which is now the new 15-16 age group and NMI national records, breaking the 36.81 seconds Nina Mosley established in June 2006.

Batallones then formed the NMI quartet with Aleksenko, Deleon Guerrero, and Litulumar and together the team submitted 4:05.62 in the 4x100m

See SWIMMERS on Page 23

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
From left, swimmers Jakey Deleon Guerrero, Isaiah Aleksenko, Maria Batallones, and Shoko Litulumar pose for a photo during the opening of the 2023 World Aquatics World Championships in Fukuoka, Japan last July, while weightlifter Aiden Gimed is shown here competing in the local tournament early this year at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.